

Shabbat battle in Jerusalem continues

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Energy to Segev; Shahal gets Information

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday created a new Ministry of Information Coordination, which will go to Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who will hand over the Energy portfolio to Yit'ud's Gonen Segev.

The arrangement raised the hackles of many ministers, who said that having the police minister be information minister smacks of arrangements in totalitarian regimes. The deal barely passed in the cabinet: the four Meretz ministers opposed it, six Labor ministers abstained, and only seven including Rabin, voted for the new appointments.

The new ministry will take responsibility for the Government Press Office (until now under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office), the Government Publications Office (currently run by the Treasury), and the Information Center (now part of the Education Ministry).

At the vehement insistence of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the new ministry will have no role in explaining foreign policy.

Besides the new portfolio, Shahal is to be included in the "inner cabinet" on foreign policy, which will involve him in the peace negotiations. This is regarded as a significant promotion for him.

Peres initially abstained, but moved to Rabin's side in return for the stipulation that the new ministry would limit its role to explaining domestic policy.

The cabinet session was preceded by a meeting of Labor ministers, at which Rabin revealed the job he found for Segev.

Five Labor ministers - Avraham Shohat, Binyamin Ben-Elizer, David Liba'i, Ephraim Sneh, and Uzi Baram - told Rabin they were categorically opposed to the new portfolio for Shahal. They argued that having the police minister also be the information minister has precedence only in totalitarian regimes.

"This whole ministry is a judi-

cious, artificial, and unnecessary last-minute concoction, and the public will hold it against us," Ben-Eliezer argued.

The five also did not want Shahal in the inner cabinet on foreign policy.

When the matter was presented to the full cabinet, Rabin encountered more opposition from the stunned Meretz ministers.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid had last week turned down an offer to be appointed information minister, on the grounds that "it is something that smacks of a dictatorship. It is no accident that no such ministries exist in democratic states," he said.

"Moreover, the public is not waiting breathlessly for yet another ministry, which, instead of explaining the government's policy, will be forced to spend all its energies and the taxpayer's money to explain why it exists at all."

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said "the whole idea seemed to have been lifted straight out of George Orwell's 1984. A democratic society has no need for a propaganda ministry, headed by a commissar who is also in charge of the police."

The cabinet had to go into a brief recess while Rabin unsuccessfully sought to calm the Meretz ministers down.

Shahal complained bitterly that he "is surrounded in the cabinet by many devoted friends who know only how talk behind my back. This is not Orwell and not 1984. My task will be to coordinate information campaigns for the various ministries and explain to the citizens what their rights are. What is so wrong with that?"

Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivli expressed satisfaction with the arrangement, and predicted that the government would be further expanded with the appointment of another Labor minister, "which will coincide probably with Shas's return to the coalition."

(Continued on Page 2)

12 hurt in J'lem suicide attack

Bomber was former Palestinian policeman who deserted to Hamas

BILL HUTMAN and JON IMMANUEL

A SUICIDE bomber wounded 12 people, one moderately, across the street from the Jerusalem International Convention Center early yesterday morning.

Senior police sources warned that more such attacks are possible, and that the bombing at a bus stop opposite the center, near the city's central bus station, had not come as a surprise.

The bomber's likely target was a bus transporting soldiers, which had moved from the bus stop and parked only meters away just before the explosion.

By last night, only two of the wounded remained hospitalized. Alex Yitzhakov, 48, of Jerusalem, and Rashid Abdallah, 43, of A-Ram, were reported in good condition at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

Eyman Radi, 21, the Palestinian policeman turned Hamas terrorist who carried out the attack, died instantly in the explosion. His body was torn in half, and only his head and torso remained intact.

Radi, from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, was carrying several kilos of explosives, most likely TNT, in a handbag, which he apparently planned to detonate on a crowded bus.

The bomb, however, either exploded prematurely, or Radi panicked and detonated it early. The result was far less damage than could have been expected, said Police Inspector-General Asaf Hefetz.

"We were lucky that the bomb did not explode in a more crowded place," Hefetz said.

Police were investigating how Radi, who did not have a permit to enter Israel, made his way from Gaza to Jerusalem. They



Security personnel inspect the scene of yesterday's bombing in Jerusalem.

(Brian Henders)

believe he was helped by other Hamas activists.

Palestinian Police sources said Radi was a traffic policeman, whom neighbors knew to be a Hamas supporter. He became an activist after the shooting outside the Palestine Mosque on November 18.

About three days ago, however, he stopped showing up for work, leading his commanders to come looking for him at his home, the sources said.

Fugally members told the commanders they did not know his whereabouts, the sources said.

Marwan Kanafani, the press adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the

PA was trying to verify the reports that he was a policeman. Meanwhile, Arafat, through Kanafani, described the attack as "criminal" especially since it happened "on the day of the birth of Jesus Christ."

A leaflet distributed soon after the attack was signed by the Martyrs' Forces/Izzadin Kassam, Hamas-Palestine, and provided the license plate number, 37-085-00, of the private bus that was carrying the soldiers. This indicated that either another Hamas operative observed the incident and reported back to Gaza, or that Hamas operatives had watched the same bus over several days.

The attack occurred just after 6

a.m. at the No. 11 and 15 bus stop, on the outbound side of Zalmaz Shazar Blvd., between the central bus station and the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

"Smoke and shrapnel flew into the air and everyone started hollering," said Avi Hasson, one of the soldiers on the bus that was the likely target of the attack, which was parked just meters away. ("Saved by a miracle," Page 2)

"We all ran out of the bus. A wounded guy ran in our direction, his hand and head bleeding, and then he just collapsed," Hasson added.

Several soldiers ran over to the

terrorist, whom they had yet to identify as the attacker, hoping to help him, witnesses said.

The blast destroyed the bus stop and adjoining kiosk and phone booth, and broke windows on the soldiers' bus, as well as in passing vehicles.

"There was a massive explosion, my back windows blew out and the back of my car was lifted into the air, throwing me forward," said Sadia Ben-Shoshan, 57, a postal worker. "Burning objects flew in all directions."

He said he had glanced at the bus stop to see if any of the soldiers needed a ride, and had seen two or three people there, but

(Continued on Page 2)

Hizbullah maintains offensive; 2 soldiers laid to rest

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH continued its current offensive against the security zone yesterday with attacks on South Lebanese Army targets, as the two IDF soldiers killed in Friday's fierce clashes were laid to rest.

Staff Sgt. Natanel Rosenthal, 20, of Herzliya, and Sgt. Guy Sudai, 19, of Tel Aviv, were buried in separate funeral ceremonies at the Kiryat Shaul military cemetery in Tel Aviv yesterday afternoon.

Hizbullah, which said the heavy fighting over the weekend was in retaliation for last Wednesday's Beirut car bomb blast in which one of its activists and three other people were killed, yesterday switched its at-

tention back to the SLA.

A roadside bomb was detonated alongside SLA troops while they were on routine operational duties in the Shafiq al-Hardoun area in the western sector of the zone.

Simultaneously, gunmen opened fire with mortars at a nearby SLA outpost.

In a statement issued in Beirut, Hizbullah claimed it had inflicted heavy casualties on the SLA, although there were no injuries and no damage was caused. IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

More shooting was reported later in the day in the eastern sector of the zone, although again

no casualties were reported.

The atmosphere in the region remained very tense in light of Hizbullah's threat to further escalate the fighting. The seven soldiers wounded in Friday's fighting, when Hizbullah gunmen bombarded an IDF position in the Al Tahr hill range region with mortar, anti-tank missile, and machine-gun fire, are all being treated in Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Two are suffering from moderate injuries, and the remainder have light wounds to arms and leg, caused mainly by shrapnel. They were all said to be in satisfactory condition yesterday and some are expected to be released soon.

France may accept hijacked airliner

PARIS (Reuters) - Foreign Minister Alain Juppe indicated yesterday that France may allow Islamic fundamentalist hijackers of a French airliner to fly to France from Algeria.

"We are prepared to consider any initiative that could allow this drama to end," he told French television when asked if Paris would accept that the plane fly to Paris from Algiers airport where it was seized on Saturday.

An Algerian journalist at Algiers airport said the five gunmen, holding over 150 passengers hostage for a second day, wanted to fly to France or Germany because those countries had abolished the death penalty.

When asked by another television channel if Paris had been in contact with the hijackers, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur replied: "I cannot answer for security reasons."

Yesterday, the gunmen released three more hostages. They have killed two of the passengers.

Juppe confirmed an Algerian state radio report that gunshots had been heard on the staircase adjoining the plane. The radio earlier said firemen and other rescue personnel were placed on maximum alert about 500 meters from the hijacked airliner.

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Palestinians threaten to halt peace process over Efrat construction

THE Palestinians will halt the peace process if Israel goes ahead with the new neighborhood in Efrat, on which work began last week, Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo declared yesterday.

Abed-Rabbo warned that the threat to halt the peace talks also applied to other Israeli development plans in the administered territories and eastern Jerusalem.

He was speaking at a protest in Beit Sahur against the project at Har Homa, in southeastern Jerusalem, on which work is scheduled to begin soon. The protest was incorporated into the annual

BILL HUTMAN

Christmas march from Shepherds' Field, through the largely Christian village.

The High Court of Justice recently rejected a petition by residents of Beit Sahur and the surrounding area, who claimed the land was illegally confiscated from them.

"If the settlement activity moves forward, the peace process will not go forward," Abed-Rabbo told a cheering crowd of more than 1,000, including sever-

al dozen Peace Now activists.

"This is not a slogan. This is a policy. Israel must understand this," he said. He said a message to this effect was presented to Israel by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The candle-lit march ended at a square in Beit Sahur that looks up at Har Homa, where the Housing Ministry is funding the construction of the new Jewish neighborhood.

"We must all work together to stop this construction. Only this way can there be true peace," said Ghassan Andoni, a protest organizer.

Villagers plant olive trees on disputed hill

VILLAGERS from El-Khader, south of Bethlehem, planted olive saplings on a hillside opposite the settlement of Efrat yesterday, and waved ownership papers in front of soldiers, who flashed their own papers declaring the area a closed military zone.

Women shouted at soldiers and surveyors who were sent to the site. Two activists from Gush Shalom were arrested for refusing to vacate the hill, saying it was now under Palestinian and not Israeli authority.

It was the fourth day of a protest against plans to build a new neighborhood for Efrat, some two kilometers away. Some 500 dunams owned by six families are at stake, with the El-Khader residents insisting the land for the new neighborhood was illegally appropriated.

JON IMMANUEL

Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Authority's minister for local government, visited the site yesterday and said, "I think it's really disastrous what is taking place here. In my hand now are official documents of private ownership for these lands."

On Saturday, the PA demanded a UN Security Council debate on Israeli land appropriations around Jerusalem.

El-Khader's problems in claiming land ownership are common in the Gush Etzion area. Some of the land in the area has been registered as private, but some has not. So the civil administration has issued certificates of private ownership to some individuals,

while declaring most of the area unregistered state land.

Including "community land," a designation Israel does not recognize, El-Khader claims some 20,000 dunams.

Residents explained that in 1967, the Jordanians began registering the disputed hill in the names of individual families.

"We all know our plot," says Mohammed Salah, who said he owns one. "Our bad luck is that there was not enough time to complete registration. The war came in June. If we'd had a few more months, we would have had all the parcels registered."

Another resident, Halil Mustafa, said "there has been confusion over this land since the 1980s. But I have papers with my lawyer in the name of my father and his father, from 1894."

Burg declares candidacy to head Jewish Agency

SARAH HONIG

MK Avraham Burg (Labor) yesterday officially announced his candidacy for the chairmanship of the Jewish Agency.

Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zivili is to formally launch the contest for the party nomination for Agency chairman on Thursday. Acting Chairman Yehiel Leket is also in the running.

The term of suspended chairman Simcha Diniz, who is on trial in Jerusalem District Court on fraud charges, ends this month.

Burg said it's his high time to Labor pick its most talented members for the job.

Leket is viewed as Rabin's candidate, and Burg as having the support of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Rabin's support for Leket, however, has been unenthusiastic.

MINISTRIES

(Continued from Page 1)

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said there was no justification for delaying Segov's cabinet appointment because of a complaint by Likud MK Limor Livnat. Livnat charged that Segov had received money from Hamat Gader for serving as a consultant.

Ben-Yair ordered Segov to return all the money he had received beyond the limit allowed MKs for work outside the Knesset. Israel radio quoted Segov as promising to return the money. Ben-Yair said he was also investigating an anonymous complaint regarding services Segov provided the Hamat Gader baths.

Meanwhile, Rabin last night informed MK Alex Goldfarb that he is to be appointed deputy housing minister. Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer agreed to take him on, after Goldfarb was denied a deputy ministerial post in the finance and interior ministries.

Evelyn Gordon adds: The High Court of Justice will hear a petition against Yit'ud's entry into the government this morning.

CORRECTION

FOUR Labor MKs voted in favor of a law increasing the basket of payments to new immigrants by 25 percent, not only Immigration and Absorption Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman, as reported in last Thursday's paper. The other three were Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, Salah Tarif, and Ya'acov Shefi.



Suicide bomber Eyman Radi poses in his Palestinian Police uniform with an M-16 rifle earlier this year. (AP)

Bus driver: Saved by a miracle

BILL HUTMAN

THE courteous driving of Eli Bramly, and "a miracle," apparently saved many lives in yesterday's suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem.

Minutes before the explosion, Bramly drove his busload of soldiers several meters forward so as not to block the stop, as he waited for other passengers to arrive.

His private bus, carrying about 35 soldiers, had been parked directly in front of where the terrorist exploded his bomb, its back door open for boarding.

"Some people may just call it good luck, but I think it was a miracle we weren't all killed,"

said Bramly, 39, who was still visibly shaken.

Police investigators said the terrorist may have wanted to board the bus and explode his bomb there. In any event, if the bus hadn't moved, the blast would have been deadly, they said.

"I heard the explosion, turned, and saw this big object being thrown in the air," Bramly said. "There was screaming, one of the female soldiers apparently became hysterical."

"I opened the doors to let the soldiers out, and within what

seemed like less than a minute an ambulance was already at the scene."

He said he believed the terrorist planned to explode the bomb on the bus, noting that the open back door gave him an easy way to board.

"I normally only open the front door so I can see who is boarding. But when it's cold or raining, I sometimes open the back door so they can get inside quickly," he said.

Two or three soldiers in the bus, which takes air force soldiers

to a base in the center of the country, were lightly injured by flying glass from broken windows. The bus suffered no other damage.

Several meters behind the bus, the Egged bus stop and adjoining kiosk and telephone booth were both destroyed.

The bus had arrived early at the stop, across the street from the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

One soldier, Avi Hasson, said he had seen an Arab at the stop who looked suspicious, but had decided he was a laborer waiting for a bus.

Arrow-2 tests to begin soon

ALON PINKAS

SIX operational tests will be conducted on the Arrow-2 anti-ballistic-missile system in the next 18 months, according to Uzi Rubin, head of the Israel Missile Defense Office (IMDO).

Arrow-2 is the operational version of Arrow-1, the research and development model of the missile.

It is estimated that the first battery (designed to comprise 50 missiles) will be deployable no sooner than 1997.

"The Arrow-1 was defined as a technological demonstrative model and was capable of operating only in testing and proving grounds. It was designed to test if

missiles can at all be intercepted and destroyed using the technology we have developed," Rubin said in an interview in the latest issue of *Air Force Magazine*, published yesterday.

Rubin told the magazine that Israel is investing more than the US in the Arrow project but he did not produce any figures.

According to published figures, the US financed 72 percent of the first two development phases of the Arrow-1 project (\$350 million), and in October, Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry secured further US funding for the Arrow-2 development phases.

BOMBER

(Continued from Page 1)

had not noticed the terrorist. "I ran out of my car to see what happened. A soldier was crying and screaming, and then I saw the terrorist's body, that is, half his body, because he didn't have any legs," Ben-Shoshan said.

Amir Borda, 24, stood at the bus stop only meters from the terrorist, but was only lightly wounded.

"I didn't suspect anything," Borda said. "Then, all of a sudden there was big explosion and

this big flame came in my direction and threw me in the air."

Shimshon Moshe, owner of the kiosk destroyed in the explosion, slept in late. "The police called me at home and started to ask if I had a gas canister in my kiosk," Moshe said.

"I didn't know what they were talking about until they explained to me about the explosion," added Moshe. He did have a canister in the kiosk, which he said was found intact, several dozen meters away.

International Conference of Women in Black and Women's Peace Movements

Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1994

3:00 p.m. Registration, Paradise Hotel, Jerusalem
5:00 p.m. The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process: Feminist Views
Moderators: Aliya Strauss, Fatma Yunis
Panelists: Yael Dayan, Nabila Espinosa, Hanna Khez, Sumaya Nasser, Vicki Shiran, Ghada Zughayer

8:30 p.m. Women and Peace - The vision and the strategies
Moderators: Nabeha Morkus, Gila Swirsky
Panelists: Hanan Ashrawi, Elsakbata Dornier, Tamar Gozansky, Sarah N. Jibril, Sara Ruddick, Erella Shadrin

Thursday, Dec. 29, 1994

Panelists and workshops with women from Taiwan, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, France, Ireland, the U.K., Hungary, Zambia, Nigeria, South Africa, Canada, and the U.S., in addition to Israeli and Palestinian women.

Some topics: War and militarism; Peace, pacifism and gender; Women refugees; Educating for peace; Lesbianism and peace activism; Dialogue and conflict resolution; Spirituality and peace efforts; Revolutionizing motherhood toward peace; Feminist views of the new world order; etc.

Friday, Dec. 30, 1994

9:00 a.m. Plenary: What next? Plans for the future
Moderators: Edna Teledano-Zarochi, Aldo Youma-Soliman
Panelists: Naomi Chazan, Yvonne Deutsch, Samira Khouri, Lusia Morgantini (Italy)

1:00 p.m. Women in Black vigil, march for peace, and prayer ceremony for war victims.

The conference includes films, workshops, well-known activists and authors, and award of the Women in Black Peace Prize

Sliding Scale Admission Fees:
Entire Conference: NIS 150-300
One day rate: NIS 60-100

Cabinet briefed on talks with Syrians

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

THE talks held in Washington over the weekend between Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Elad Barak and his Syrian counterpart, Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, were serious and successful and will be continued in the near future, the cabinet was told yesterday by Barak and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Before briefing the cabinet, Rabin bid an official farewell to Barak, who retires on Sunday. He will be replaced by Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak.

According to sources, Rabin began by describing the current escalation in military activities in

south Lebanon, and said this was raised forcefully at the Washington meeting with the Syrians.

Rabin defined the talks as "strictly on military issues of the highest level."

According to the official Syrian news agency SANA, the Washington talks ended with no result because of Israel's "impossible demands."

The latest sticking point, according to the official daily *Al-Balad*, was an Israeli demand for "observation points" on the Golan Heights as a condition for withdrawal. The demand was rejected, the newspaper said.

In very deep sorrow, we announce the death of my dear father, our grandfather

SHMUEL AVIGAN

The funeral will take place today, Monday, December 26, 1994, at 2 p.m., at the Ramat Hashavim cemetery.

The Bereaved Family

ברוך ד"ר חיים

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our revered mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

BASIA KLEINBAUM

Daughter of Rabbi Akiva Gutholz
Poland - New York

The funeral took place yesterday, December 25, 1994, at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

The Schwartz-Doron and Flaum Families

In deep sorrow, we announce the premature death of our dear husband, father and grandfather

ENRIQUE ROGER

The funeral will take place today, Monday, December 26, at 2:00 p.m., at the cemetery of Moshav Ben-Shimon.

A special bus will depart at 12 noon from Mercas Carmel, Paz Petrol Station, and at 12:10 p.m. from B'nai Brith, opposite the Horev Center in Haifa.

Shiva will take place at 24 Yisrael Galili, Ramat Poleg.

The Bereaved Family

The Sephardi Communities Department of the World Zionist Organization mourns the loss of

Rabbi Dr. SOLOMON GAON

Chairman of the Education Commission of the World Sephardi Federation and member of its Presidium
We express deep sorrow and extend sincere condolences to his wife Regina and to the family

Avi Shlush, Director General

The Lawn Bowls Association of Israel and its members, extend their deepest sympathy to David Ziv and his family on the passing of

GAIL

The tombstone ceremony for our mother and grandmother

ESTHER MANDEL

will take place on Friday, December 30, 1994, at 9 a.m. at the Herzliya Cemetery.

Doreen and John Gainsford
Jeffrey Mandel and families.

مكتبة الكمال

Overseas radio programs to be cut

LIAT COLLINS

ISRAEL Radio's English- and French-language broadcasts abroad are scheduled to be drastically cut to save money. Broadcasts in most other languages will not be affected.

Unless money can be found from other sources, such as the Foreign Ministry or Jewish Agency, which financed the broadcasts until 1988, these broadcasts will each be cut by about an hour daily, beginning January 1.

According to IBA spokesman Zvi Lidor, Israel Radio plans to broadcast news bulletins in English several times during the night on Radio 2, which is transmitted abroad.

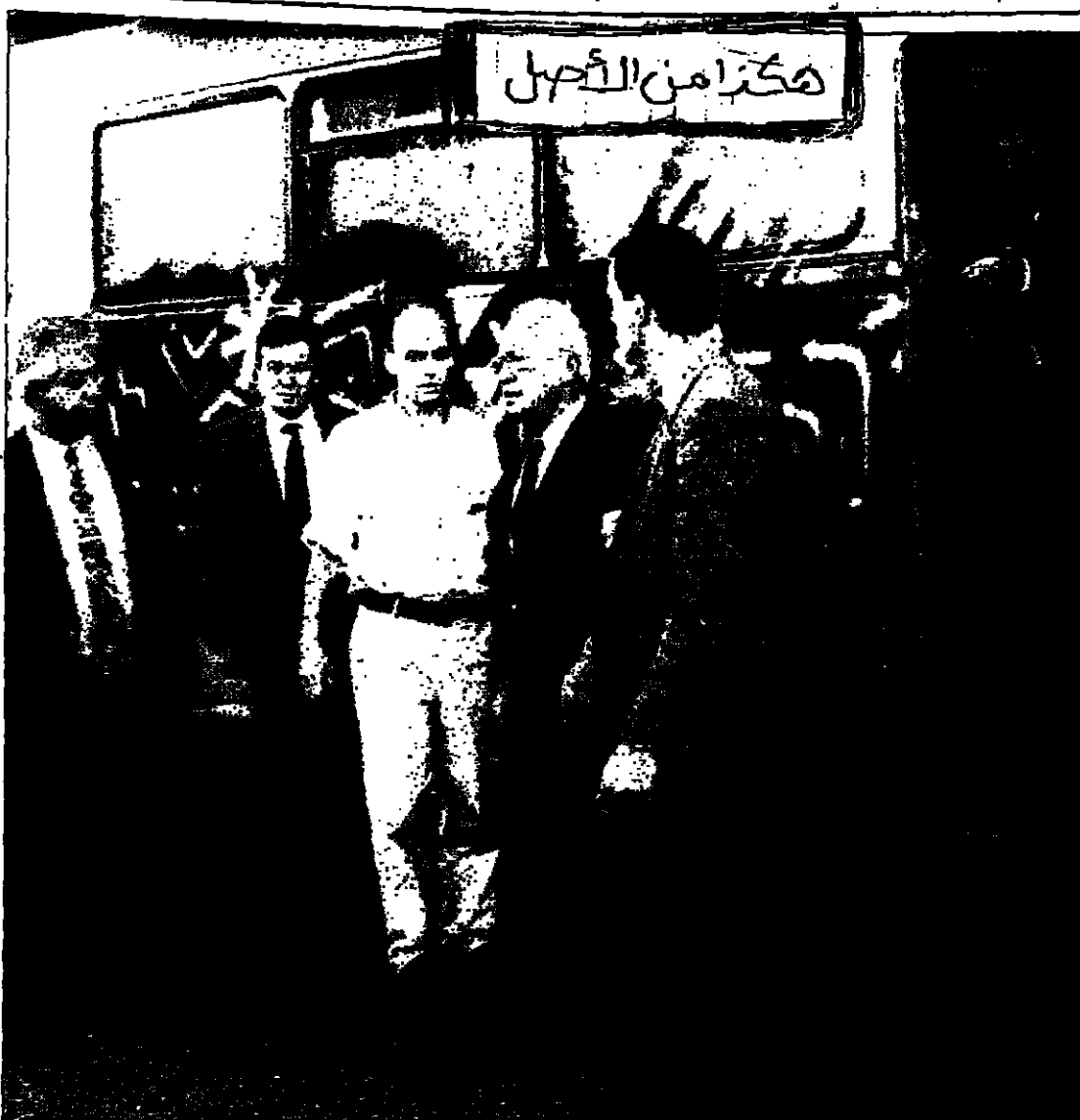
Workers in the radio's French and English departments condemned the move.

"It's a false economy," said one employee. "And it's not clear how they hope to keep local listeners from changing channels during the night, if the foreign language bulletins are maintained on local frequencies. It's just a face-saving device."

The workers noted that the cutback would mainly affect the broadcasts to North America, which lost its IBA prime time broadcasts in 1991 as part of budget cuts.

"The neighboring Arab countries continue to broadcast in English and French," a staffer said. "Only Israel is cutting back."

The French department, which is losing all its late evening and night broadcasts, is particularly upset, as reception on its remaining daytime shortwave broadcasts is known to be poor, and the broadcasts are at times when most of its potential audience in France, Belgium, and Switzerland are at work.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exits the 'Say No to Drugs' bus inaugurated yesterday which will reach youths around the country. (Isaac Harari)

5% of high schoolers admit to having tried marijuana

BATSHEVA TSUR

MORE than 5 percent of high-school pupils admit to having tried marijuana or some other drug, and 1% have used hard drugs, MK Naomi Blumenthal said yesterday.

There are about 30,000 drug addicts in the country, she added. "While much lower than in the US, the percentages in Israel are higher than in England and France so this means we are not doing so well," Blumenthal said.

She was speaking at Beit Hamassi where members of Al-Sam-

the association to prevent drug use among youth, launched a week-long awareness campaign.

President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, signed a scroll which will travel around the country's schools and to which pupils will sign to confirm they will not use drugs.

In a related event, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday inaugurated a silver-painted bus

with psychedelic slogans - designed to catch young eyes - reading: "It's 'no' to drugs."

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein participated in the short ceremony.

Donated by businessman Roni Duek, the founder of the "Ah-shav" anti-drug and anti-AIDS movement, the bus will go to schools, youth clubs, and music festivals. It is equipped with multimedia technology and has a stage on its roof. The project cost \$250,000.

High Court: Adult children of non-Jews have no residency rights

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court has ruled that a non-Jew who has become a citizen has no right to bring her two grown sons here as well, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The court was ruling on a petition by Julie Harari, who came here from Burma in 1990 and became a citizen after her marriage in 1991. The following year, her two sons by a previous marriage came to visit, and later applied for a residency permit.

The Hararis argued that since the boys' father had died, they had no other home, and needed their mother's guidance and support. However, the Interior Ministry responded that since both

are adults - they are 19 and 21 - they have no automatic right to residency permits.

In general, the only adult relatives of non-Jewish immigrants who receive residency permits are elderly parents living alone, who need their child's support, the ministry said. Other adult relatives are allowed in only in exceptional cases.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Michael Cheshin, and Tova Strasberg-Cohen castigated the ministry for the fact that this policy is merely an oral tradition, and has not been set down in writing, and is therefore not known to the public.

Hamas member gets 20 years for stabbing soldier in back

RAINE MARCUS

THE terrorist who stabbed a soldier at Petah Tikva's Gheva interchange in September was sentenced to 20 years in prison by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Elad Saban, 19, was stabbed in the back, suffering moderate wounds, as he waited near a bus stop.

Police and bystanders chased and captured Hamas member Sa'ad Hatatba, 19, of Nabulus.

The court was told that Hatatba had joined Hamas after his friend was shot by the IDF

and that he had vowed to avenge his friend's death.

But Hatatba himself claimed that the stabbing was in revenge for the shooting of soldiers of two members of his family.

In sentencing Hatatba, Judges Edmond Levy, Devorah Berliner and Nissim Yeshayahu, said:

"The defendant did not stand face to face opposite his victim, a man of his own age, but stabbed him in the back, only emphasizing to what depths he had sunk."

WORLD BRIEFS

'Russian planes bomb Grozny'

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian warplanes resumed bombing the Chechen capital, Grozny, at around five p.m. yesterday, Interfax news agency said.

The agency quoted Chechen officials as saying that missiles launched by the planes had hit an area some two kilometers from the office of the Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev in the city center.

The agency gave no details. Telephone communications with Grozny have been disrupted since Friday.

The Russian government said that up to 1,000 Chechen fighters were killed in fierce clashes east of the Chechen rebel capital Grozny yesterday and Saturday.

A government spokeswoman said Chechen forces suffered the casualties in battles at the settlement of Argun, 15 kilometers east of Grozny. The figure, which could not be independently confirmed, seemed high compared to previous casualty reports.

Chechen fighters in Argun denied Moscow's claims. He said only two people were wounded in Argun over the weekend, both civilians.

Cease-fire testeters in Yugoslavia

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Bosnia's latest cease-fire testeters yesterday when the government claimed Bosnian Serbs had joined Croatian Serbs and rebel Muslims in attacking its troops in the northwestern enclave of Bihać.

The Muslim-led government threatened to resume fighting and asked for an urgent session of the UN Security Council to consider the situation.

Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic filed his own complaint with the United Nations, saying Croat troops from Croatia and Bosnia were attacking his forces north of Livno, the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA reported.

White House intruder stymied

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - An unarmed man tried to climb the north fence of the White House yesterday but was arrested by the Secret Service, a spokesman for the agency said.

President Clinton and his family were inside the White House at the time, but were never in any danger in the latest attempt to breach security at the presidential residence.

The Secret Service handles about half a dozen cases of "fence-hoppers" and others trying to get onto the White House grounds each year.

No Christmas release for soldier

SEOUL (AP) - American helicopter pilot Bobby Hall spent Christmas in captivity, ending US hopes that North Korea would free him for the holiday.

UN military officials held a low-level meeting yesterday at the truce village of Panmunjom with officers of the Korean People's Army. No details were available.

"However, we continue to work through the processes which we hope will lead to a senior officers' meeting as soon as possible," said Jim Coles, a spokesman for the US and UN military in South Korea.

Christmas unites British royals

SANDRINGHAM, England (Reuters) - Britain's royal family, divided by scandal and troubled marriages, gathered together at one of Queen Elizabeth's country estates for Christmas celebrations yesterday.

Princess Diana made a rare visit to her in-laws, joining them to open presents on Christmas Eve at the Sandringham estate, in the eastern England county of Norfolk, and to walk to a nearby church for morning service.

Diana, estranged wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, arrived with their sons William, 12, and Harry, 10, on Saturday and stayed overnight at Sandringham House with other members of the family.

William and Harry, who have been with their mother from the beginning of their school holiday, will stay on with their father for the rest of the break.

California population hits 32m

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) - California's population surpassed 32 million in 1994, but population growth was slower than at any time since the early 1970s, state records show. As of July 1, the state was home to 32,140,000 people, according to official estimates released Friday by the state's Department of Finance. That's an increase of 394,000 over the previous 12 months.

IN MEMORIAM

Sgt. Nachson Wachsmann
Capt. Nir Poraz
Anat Rosen
Ela Volkov
Ayelet Langer-Alkobi
Renye Yurist
Tamar Calibach-Sapri
Pua Yadger
Tzipora Ariel
Ofra Ben-Naim
Shira Meroz-Kot
Galit Rosen

Miriam Adaf
Habib Tishbi
Moshe Gerdinger
Dalia Ashkenazi
Paula Rappaport
Pierre Atlas
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ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Southern Region

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS Co. Ltd.
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING
Southern Region

Lease offered on 2 lots for construction of row cottages (total of 160 units), Neighborhood Dole, Shahmon Eliat
Invitation to Tender 358/94/Bet Shin

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 2 year development agreement, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for lots, the details of which are:

Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Building Area, sq.m.	No. of Units	Dev. Cost, NIS	Min. Deposit, NIS
Alel	21,229	20,347	15,795	79	3,083,018
Bet	44,48	21,009	15,795	81	3,182,328

* According to Urban Building Plan 151/Bet Mem/2, plots 21-29, 44-48 (Lot A) are intended for the construction of 79 row cottages and plots 30-43 (Lot B) are intended for the construction of 81 row cottages.
In addition to the cost of the land, the successful bidder will pay:
1. The development costs directly to Industrial Buildings Co. Ltd., linked to the index of building inputs for November 1994.
2. The development costs of the infrastructure to the Ministry of Construction and Housing, through the Industrial Buildings Co. Ltd., linked to the building index for November 1994.
3. The Elit Municipality costs of taxes and development fees, as detailed in the tender documents.
Bidders may submit offers for both lots, but will not win the bid for more than one lot.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS200 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben Zvi (above Ullam Yahalom), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the sum listed above should be attached to bids as deposit.
Last date for submitting bids: February 5, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Northern Region

Notice Pursuant to Regulation 25 (15)
Regarding the Obligation to Issue Tenders, 1993

- The Israel Lands Administration gives notice that it intends to award rights, defined in a development agreement, for land at Karmel, Block 19863, Parcel 67; Block 19862, Parcel 1, 7, 72, 78, 84, 159, Plot Bet 16.6 dunams, to construct a tourism project, including a hotel, according to Urban Building Plan S919.
- The Administration will grant rights, as stated in Para. 1, unless other suitable applications are received at the Administration's Northern District Office by February 27, 1995 (12 noon).
- If there are other applications, the Administration may issue a closed tender among those with recommendations from the Ministry of Tourism, and who submit suitable applications, referring to the areas indicated in Para. 1.
- Applications should fill in the appropriate form, which will be available from Wednesday, December 28, 1994 at Wednesday, January 18, 1995, at the Administration's Northern Office, Tel. 06-558211, Sun., Mon., Wed., Thurs., 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (closed Tuesday).
- The above notice and the receipt of applications will not obligate the Administration to allocate any land, or part of it, to allocate it by way of a tender, or in any other way, and no obligations apply to the way the Administration allocates the land.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Central Region

Lease offered on 7 plots, for construction of 24 or 34 terrace housing units, Kfar Saba - Invitation to Tender 315/94/Mem Resh

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 2 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are:

Urban Building Plot	Block	Part of Parcel	Plots	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area, sq.m.	Deposit, NIS
151/Kaf Samach Ale/Gimmel Ale/Gimmel Ale/Gimmel Ale/Gimmel Ale/Gimmel Ale/Gimmel Ale	7803	39	26	5,571	3,500	500,000

* Urban Building Plan 151/Kaf Samach shows that the plots are zoned as Residential Bet Special. On Plots 29, 30, 33, 34, 3 or 4 terrace houses may be built.
On Plots 28, 31, 32, 4 or 6 terrace housing units may be built, in two-story buildings. The building percentage on all plots is 35 per cent of 70% on two stories.
Attics may be built, in accordance with Regulation Alel/Gimmel/Gimmel/11/Kaf Samach.
** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay fees and levies, in accordance with the local bylaws.
† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Central Region, Rehov Peah Tikva, Tel. Aviv, ☎ 03-5583853, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the sum listed above should be attached to bids as deposit.
Last date for submitting bids: March 1, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Southern Region

Lease offered on a plot for construction of a commercial building, Yod Alef Quarter ("Ashan") Beersheba
Invitation to Tender 309/94/Bet Shin

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for the plot, the details and building possibilities of which, at the time of publishing this notice, are:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Building Area, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Deposit, NIS
9-Kaf Bet	14	900	400	190	239,372	25,000

* Urban Building Plan 2/83/Bet Mem/5 shows that a one-story commercial building, with an area of 170 sq.m., plus 25 sq.m. service area, may be built on the plot.
† The minimum price is for the land and development costs.
† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration does not undertake to accept the highest or any bid.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben Zvi (above Ullam Yahalom), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the sum of the deposit should be attached to bids.
Last date for submitting bids: February 5, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Southern Region

Lease offered on plot for construction of restaurant and cafe, hotels area, Arad - Invitation to Tender 323/94/Bet Shin

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are:

Block	Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Development Cost, NIS	Deposit, NIS
10224	Bet 30	1,050	315	222,780	84,569	21,000

* Urban Building Plan 4102/3024 shows that a commercial building with a building percentage of 30 on one floor may be erected. Any additional construction that may be approved, including a basement, auxiliary structure, etc., will involve the successful bidder in an additional payment to the Administration, in accordance with the Administration's rules, and also in additional development costs, payable to Arad Local Council.
† Bids should be for the land only, excluding development. The above development costs will be paid separately to Arad Local Council, within 30 days to be awarded the tender. These costs are linked to the index of consumer prices for November 1994.
† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben Zvi (above Ullam Yahalom), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the above deposit should be attached to bids.
Last date for submitting bids: February 5, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Tel Aviv Region

Lease offered on plots for residential construction (514 housing units), Shechunat Hamishitah, Tel Aviv

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for plots shown in detailed master plan 2050 Gimmel Bet/Mem/10, Amendment No. 1, dated 1991, the details and building possibilities of which are:

Part of	Plots	Approx. Area, sq.m.	No. of Housing Units	Area for residential use, sq.m.	Advance to T.A. Council, NIS	Payment for infrastructure work, NIS	Deposit, NIS
Tender 150/94/Tav Alef	41, 42	3225	36	8920	4,538,785	545,000	204,677
Tender 151/94/Tav Alef	7, 23, 24	231, 232	49	6068	2,255,955	271,000	80,674
Tender 152/94/Tav Alef	6, 7	15,390	99	15,360	6,042,738	725,000	186,320
Tender 153/94/Tav Alef	6, 7, 11	11,435	80	11,880	4,270,201	513,000	144,766
Tender 154/94/Tav Alef	6, 7	151	4345	36	4320	1,450,256	174,000
Tender 155/94/Tav Alef	7, 43	171, 181	5480	54	5480	2,173,385	262,000
Tender 156/94/Tav Alef	44, 45	6935	104	12,480	4,189,629	500,000	179,916
Tender 157/94/Tav Alef	43, 44	201, 202	11,875	65	10,440	3,947,921	472,000

In addition to the amount paid for the land, successful bidders will pay:
* Infrastructure costs - to Industrial Buildings Ltd. These costs are linked to the index of residential building inputs for October 1994.

** The advance is in respect of fees payable to Tel Aviv Municipality; they are linked to the index of consumer prices for October 1994.
† Not including VAT.
† Payment to the Israel Electricity Corporation, linked to the Corporation's price list for June 1994.
† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration and Tel Aviv Municipality reserve the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest, as they think fit.
The Administration reserves the right to reject all bids, if acceptable bids are not received for all the above seven tenders.
The tender booklet will be available from January 3, 1995, against payment of NIS100 cash (including VAT) for each of the 8 booklets, at the Israel Lands Administration, Tel Aviv Region, 116 Derech Petah Tikva (Bet Kaifa), Tel Aviv, ☎ 03-5638111, during regular working hours.
Appendix Yod, the "neighborhood book" for each tender, which forms an integral part of the tender documents, is available against submission of a receipt for NIS1,000 (for each booklet), paid into Account No. 437815 at the United Mizrahi Bank, Carlebach Branch, Tel Aviv, to the credit of Industrial Buildings Ltd.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the above deposit should be attached to bids.
Last date for submitting bids: February 15, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.
The notice is published for information only, and nothing in it obligates the Israel Lands Administration and/or Tel Aviv Municipality in any way. The binding conditions are those appearing in the tender booklets, with appendices.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Central Region

Leases offered on 17 plots for construction of industrial buildings, Gan Yavne Industrial Zone - Invitation to Tender 354/94/Mem Resh

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for plots, the details of which are:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Development Cost, NIS	Deposit, NIS
545	37	3	2,217	2,990	431,359	305,222	50,000
545	37, 38	4	1,179	1,415	228,395	182,317	25,000
545	7, 36-38	7	3,022	3,856	557,043	418,090	80,000
545	21, 22	12	1,257	1,528	244,572	173,056	25,000
545	7, 21-25	12	8,475	10,158	1,822,059	1,185,509	180,000
545	21, 22, 28	15	6,730	8,076	1,351,874	825,544	135,000
545	32, 34, 36	16	8,732	8,078	1,352,275	926,819	135,000
545	32, 34, 36	17	8,818	8,182	1,369,550	938,690	135,000
545	27, 28, 30	19	5,621	6,745	1,297,320	773,854	130,000
545	10, 11, 22	20	4,444	5,330	910,167	611,822	90,000
545	4, 5, 11	21	8,961	11,963	1,992,999	1,371,398	200,000
545	4, 11, 25	22	7,384	8,861	1,563,001	1,016,583	155,000
545	6, 7, 10	23	4,979	5,975	1,121,704	685,478	120,000
545	11, 25, 23	30	1,506	1,806	336,685	207,199	35,000
545	15-23, 29	31	2,585	3,102	570,144	355,687	60,000

* Urban Building Plan 3/589/Zayin Mem shows that the area is zoned for workshops and industry. On each plot, a 3-story industrial building may be erected, with a building percentage of 40 per cent, total of 120% on three stories - all in accordance with the urban building plan.
The area of the plots are as shown in Parcel Drawing Yod/359/Zayin Mem.
† Bids should be for the land only; in addition, the successful bidder will be required to pay the development costs directly to Industrial Buildings Ltd. These costs are linked to the index of building inputs for November 1994, published on December 15, 1994.
Fees and levies will also be paid by the successful bidder, as detailed in the tender documents.
† Not including VAT.
1. Bids may be submitted for one or more plots.
2. The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.
3. All bids will be regarded as final and unconditional. A bid for a plot may not be made conditional on obtaining the tender for another plot, and no order of preference may be submitted for tenders the bidder would wish to receive.
The tender booklet will be available from February 1, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS300 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Central Region, 88 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv, ☎ 03-5638111, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the sum listed above must be attached to each bid as deposit.
Last date for submitting bids: March 1, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Haifa Region

Lease offered on a plot for construction of 200 housing units, Bat Galim, Haifa - Invitation to Tender 359/94/Het

Bids are invited from those interested in signing 22 month development agreements, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for a plot, the details and building possibilities of which are:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plots	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area, sq.m.	No. of Housing Units	Deposit, NIS
1081	29, 30, 31	2001, 2011	12,317	16,100	200	250,000

† Residential + Protected Housing. †† Commercial + Residential.
Urban Building Plan 184/81/Mem/Het/Het shows that Plot 2001 is intended for residential and protected housing construction, with an area of 9,100 sq.m. Plots 2010 and 2011 are intended for commercial and residential construction, the commercial area being 2,200 sq.m., and the residential area, 4,800 sq.m.
In addition to the development costs, the successful bidder will pay fees and levies to the local council, in accordance with the bylaws, as detailed in the tender documents.
The following are eligible to bid:
1. A company or person, registered in the Contractors Register under Building, Main Branch (100), in accordance with the Law for the Registering of Contractors for Civil Engineering Construction Work 1989.
2. A company or person, not registered in the Contractors Register, who acts as an entrepreneur for the sale and leasing of buildings, constructed by contractors who are registered in the Contractors Register.
3. Contractors whose "calculated average number of housing units" is more than 100, and who are registered in the Contractors Register in the 100 Branch, Section 5 Gimmel, or an entrepreneur whose "calculated average number of housing units" exceeds 100.
4. The "calculated average number of housing units" will be calculated by reference to the total number of housing units and other construction areas, the building of which was completed after June 1, 1981.
5. A contractor/entrepreneur will provide confirmation of his construction work, completed after June 1, 1981, by providing, inter alia:
- A Form 4, registered on the bidder's name.
- A building agreement, contracted between the bidder and another party, demonstrating that the building work was carried out by him; a building permit and Form 4 on the name of the other party should be attached.
- A building agreement, contracted between the bidder and the Ministry of Construction and Housing.
6. The successful bidders will be entitled to accelerated building program incentives, on the conditions set out in the tender documents.
The tender booklet will be available from December 29, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS500 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Haifa Region, 13 Derech Haatzmaut, Haifa, ☎ (04) 355411, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the highest of the deposit amounts for the lots bid for, must be attached to bids.
Last date for submitting bids: February 1, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.
The notice is published for information only, and nothing in it obligates the Israel Lands Administration and/or Tel Aviv Municipality in any way. The binding conditions are those appearing in the tender booklets, with appendices.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Southern Region

Lease offered on 3 plots for owner-occupier construction in Meltra - Invitation to Tender 352/94/Bet Shin

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Development Cost, NIS	Deposit, NIS
2186	733	230	28,520	67,200	5,000	5,000	5,000
4303	705	282	27,450	89,247	5,000	5,000	5,000
5088	708	283	27,547	87,009	5,000	5,000	5,000

* Urban Building Plan 1/113/314 shows that the area is zoned as Residential Alef, and that one single-family housing unit may be built on each plot. The maximum area for registration is as detailed above. The building percentage is 35 on one floor, total on two floors, 40% - as detailed in the urban building plan documents.
† In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay the above development costs directly to the Meltra Settlers Association. These costs are linked to the index of consumer prices for November 1994.
In addition, fees and levies will be paid to the local council, as detailed in the tender documents.
† Not including VAT. †† VAT not payable.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben Zvi (above Ullam Yahalom), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for NIS5,000 should be attached to bids, as deposit.
Last date for submitting bids: February 5, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Southern Region

Lease offered on 2 plots for construction of a commercial building, Halami Quarter, Arad - Invitation to Tender 326/94/Bet Shin

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are:

Urban Building Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Deposit, NIS
1002	8,000	12,000	9,732,378	1,000,000

* Urban Building Plan 106/Bet Mem/24 shows that a commercial building with a maximum building percentage of 80 on the ground floor may be erected, total building percentage on 2 floors - 120.
† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben Zvi (above Ullam Yahalom), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the above deposit should be attached to bids.
Last date for submitting bids: February 5, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Southern Region

Lease offered on 2 plots for construction of a commercial building, Halami Quarter, Arad - Invitation to Tender 326/94/Bet Shin

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are:

Urban Building Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Deposit, NIS
1002	8,000	12,000	9,732,378	1,000,000

* Urban Building Plan 106/Bet Mem/24 shows that a commercial building with a maximum building percentage of 80 on the ground floor may be erected, total building percentage on 2 floors - 120.
† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben Zvi (above Ullam Yahalom), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202, during regular working hours.
A bank check or bank guarantee for the above deposit should be attached to bids.
Last date for submitting bids: February 5, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

** The minimum price is for the land and development costs.
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The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.
The tender booklet will be available from January 2, 1995, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Rehov Ben Zvi (above Ullam Yahalom), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202, during regular working hours.
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2	Alel/04	30	3,108	3,360	1,052,235	360,000
3	Bet/04	40	4,751	4,480	1,403,029	480,000
4	105, 201	58	14,147	9,820	2,693,308	810,000
5	Alel/06	34	5,768	3,828	1,192,575	400,000
	Bet/06			200		
6	Gimmel/06	40	7,138	commercial 4,768 + 1,000	1,403,029	480,000
7	110	18	1,870	commercial 2,198 + 600	631,383	216,000
8	111	80	6,016	commercial 6,720	2,104,544	720,000
9	112	8	1,184	887 + 290,600	998,000	
				commercial		
10	116,m 202	38	3,762	3,320	1,655,880	465,000
11	208	30	7,759	4,294	1,257,257	360,000
12	115, 204	12	12,789	7,980	2,458,574	684,000
13	Vav/05	13	4,257	2,520	854,990	216,000
14	Zayev/05	42	5,413	5,880	1,994,658	504,000
	205 Alel + Het			8,822	2,420,226	626,000
15	113, 207	68	12,236	6,439	856,439	228,000
16	114, 209	42	8,093	5,040	1,473,181	504,000
17						

WHERE most people see garbage, puppeteer Eric Smith sees raw material.

Take his company's latest show, *The Dream Sealers*, for example. "I made the witches' costumes for *The Dream Sealers* with fabric I stripped from discarded umbrellas I found on the street," says Smith in his rooftop Tel Aviv apartment overlooking the sea.

Not that he is happy about such scavenging.

"This isn't theater in a suitcase," says Smith. "We're a theater company like any other and we need the proper funding."

He will get a little help on Wednesday, when he walks on stage at Yad Labanum to receive the 1994 Gortlieb and Hannah Rosenberg Prize from the Tel Aviv Municipality for his unique contribution to Israeli theater. Sharing the NIS 18,000 prize is actor Shmuel Vilosny.

Puppetry: Few visible means of support

HELEN KAYE

"I don't expect prizes," the South African immigrant says in his gentle, well-bred voice. "What I do expect is more cooperation than I get."

He has a point. Over the years Smith has had to fight the establishment for almost every penny of funding for his theater, let alone the recognition he deserves; and he cannot hide the bitterness.

The first 10 years were wonderful. Founded in 1972, Smith's company functioned within the framework of the Children and Youth Theater (CYT).

With its backing "we went all over Israel and toured abroad to Europe, the US, and to South Africa."

They went to South Africa in

1982, where they played to mixed audiences; but Smith, decidedly apolitical, doesn't want to speak of the apartheid years. Racism, he says, is worldwide.

He first came here from his native Pretoria "just on a visit" in 1962. In 1967 he returned to design the animals for the Haifa Theater production of *Peter Pan*.

The animals stole the show, and Smith was swamped with offers, among them CYT's first two productions - *Amnon and Tamara* and *Pooh Bear*. In 1971 Smith took a year off to build puppets, and the company was born.

During those 10 years with CYT, Smith and his puppets appeared at the Israel Festival in 1979 and 1981.

In 1983, lack of funding forced

the company to disband. It was reborn in 1987 thanks to Rami Levi, the general manager of the Duhel Auditorium in Tel Aviv's Hatikva quarter.

That was the year Smith designed the sets for - and veteran actor Yossi Graber played the title role in - *The King and I*, the hugely successful production the Cameri Theater did using Hatikva residents as extras.

Graber and Smith have been friends and collaborators ever since 1967, and they told Levi about the puppets.

Levi saw an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone, and in 1988 Eric's Puppet Company found a permanent home at Duhel.

Part of the Duhel deal was working with the neighborhood kids, and over the years Smith has trained a couple of dozen or so Hatikva children as puppeteers, not to mention many of those who today have their own puppet theaters and teach puppetry.

Levi says Smith is an institution in the neighborhood, and the kids adore him even though he is very demanding and a perfectionist in all he does.

"Eric knows children, and he knows what they like," says Graber. "That's a built-in intuition. You can't learn it."

It takes as many as seven puppeteers to manipulate the puppets, and there are dozens in every show. *The Magic Carousel*

alone, a puppet revue, has 64. The puppets - he carves and costumes every one of them - are nearly life-size and fill the stage in a riot of color and sound.

"Until this year, the company's budget was simply part of Duhel's administrative costs," says Levi. "This year we got about NIS 200,000 extra, so I'll finally be able to pay Eric a small salary."

Smith, like the rest of the company, receives compensation only for performances at Duhel and those around the country within the framework of Omanut La'am.

There are always children and animals in a Smith show, because "if you want to get a message through, give it to an animal to

say," he says. "Children relate to puppets as they never might to humans, and that makes them a wonderful medium for education."

He is very busy outside the world of puppets as well. Earlier this year Smith was one of 10 artists invited to participate in Rome's first International Computer Animation Exhibition and the only one with two works in the show.

He is also a painter, and 39 of his watercolors will go on exhibition in a London gallery next spring.

Still, the puppets are his first love.

"The children scream and shout and participate," says Smith. "Response to this kind of theater is greater than for a live show. Puppets communicate in a very direct way."

And that, despite the disappointments and the struggle, is what keeps him here.

Later, Mr. Chips

FILM REVIEW

ADINA HOFFMAN

RENAISSANCE MAN

★½

Directed by Penny Marshall. Screenplay by Jim Burstein. Hebrew title: *Hacham Al Gdolim*. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.

Penny Marshall's *Renaissance Man* features Danny DeVito as an ad exec who loses his job and is forced to take work as the teacher of a remedial class in a military academy. He has never taught before and, as he says, his students have never thought. It's a perfect match.

He's round and squirrely and favors loud Hawaiian shirts; the kids are boisterous and racially mixed and dressed in identical camouflage. One sleeps in class, one clown, one mopes, one wears funny glasses, one talks compulsively about his dead father, one is a girl.

In essence, they're a tall, post-modern version of the seven dwarfs, except that there are eight of them.

Forget for a minute that the motto "Victory Starts Here" is painted in bright colors on a prominent school wall. Forget that, in real life, it usually takes at least a teeny tiny bit of classroom experience to become a competent teacher, to say nothing of an inspirational one.

And forget that you've probably seen numerous subtler, wiser variations on this theme before, in *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, *Dead Po-*

ets Society or even *Welcome Back, Kotter*.

Go ahead, guess. What do you think happens to Bill Rigo's class of misfits, dummies and chronic losers?

They become Shakespeare scholars, of course, able after just a few days of casual study to comment at length on the existential implications of the gravedigger scene in *Hamlet*, and fully prepared - in the middle of a grueling physical drill in the pouring rain - to recite flawlessly from memory Henry V's lengthy Saint Crispin's Day speech.

Now, I love Shakespeare and I love learning. In other words, I love what *Renaissance Man* seems to stand for. But - or therefore - I also hated the movie and its mindless manipulation, how it solves the characters' deep, lifelong problems with a few feel-good clichés and a triumphal soundtrack.

I detested the way complex concepts like meter, metaphor and oxymoron are trotted out to flatter an audience's literary sophistication, at the same time the film's blatant plot development and imbecilic dialogue constitute a cruel insult to the intelligence of a below-average 10-year-old.

I also loathed how the movie made me weep.

Renaissance Man will get to you. No matter how reductive its thinking is - and its thinking is very reductive - the film is bound to choke up almost anyone who's ever set foot in a classroom, as student or as teacher. Poor inner-city black kids memorizing solilo-



This slob has a way of getting poor black kids to memorize soliloquies in iambic pentameter.

quies in iambic pentameter! It's kitschier than kitsch could be. Still, it does the job, as a Hallmark card also sometimes does the job.

In addition to the tender nature of the theme, it's mighty hard to root against Danny DeVito. His roly-poly presence is by nature comic and endearing, even if the lines he speaks are not.

So the movie's only genuine sparks fly during the school scenes, as DeVito springs around

on the balls of his small feet and the students howl and curse about what's rotten in Denmark.

The young actors are a talented bunch who lend a chaotic energy to the otherwise inert proceedings. Among them are Lilli Brancato Jr., who starred in Robert De Niro's *A Bronx Tale* and who should be advised to hold off on further *Raging Bull* impressions until he's established his own career; rap singer Marky Mark; and Kadim Hardison, star of the sitcom *Another World*.

Director Penny Marshall, a.k.a. Laverne (as in Shirley), is herself no stranger to situation comedy. *Renaissance Man* bears the dubious mark of her early TV training and might have fit more naturally into neat half-hour installments, with a loud laugh track and ample intermissions for Roloids commercials and refrigerator trips.

Be sure to tune in next week when the kids in the class offer their funky, hip-hop version of *Titus Andronicus*!

Mostly Mozart career 'a sweet burden'

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

"It's just a coincidence," says Hans Graf, the long-time music director of Salzburg's Mozarteum Orchestra, who is making his debut here in a program heavily weighted with - you guessed it - Mozart.

The 45-year-old Austrian maestro is leading the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, with soloist Izhak Perlman performing two Mozart works.

Working in Salzburg, where people want to hear Mozart all the time, "is a sweet burden," says Graf. "It's a problem to play Mozart most of the time, but Mozart is the only composer who can

stand so much playing of his music."

Graf is also conducting Beethoven's ever-popular Fifth Symphony in the series. This, he says, is the tricky part of the program.

"Everybody has a formulated opinion about [this symphony] and if you dare to do something different, people are amazed and angry," he says. "Beethoven's Fifth is a landmark, a cornerstone, maybe more than any other symphony in the repertoire."

Graf's first meeting with the IPO, as with any other orchestra,

was a feeling-out process.

"It's always rather challenging," he says. "The more you see orchestras, the more you understand that first you just have to listen to them, just let them play and so you feel what they are about. And the Israel Philharmonic was very friendly, very receptive and collaborative."

Although Graf's concerts are basically centered around a tried-and-trusted repertoire, the program opens with contemporary Israeli composer Ari Ben-Shabat's *Sinfonia Chromatica*.

"It's a special joy if you find a score that can last, and I think this one will," says Graf.

Graf recently accepted a position as music director of the Basque National Orchestra in San Sebastian.

He leads the IPO tonight through Wednesday at the Haifa Auditorium and Thursday and Saturday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. The Saturday program still features Perlman playing Mozart, but the orchestral selections will change from Ben-Shabat and Beethoven to Haydn's 97th Symphony and Mozart's *Idomeneo* overture.

Euro-visionaries

LIAT COLLINS

HAVING taken Cairo by storm, Dana International - known as Yaron before the sex change operation - is seeking success further afield. Her song "Good Night Europe" is one chosen from the 487 pre-Eurovision Song Contest hopefuls.

The pre-Eurovision contest will be held in March in Tel Aviv, during which panels of judges nationwide will select the song to represent Israel at the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin in May. No matter which song is chosen, it is unlikely to sound like sing-along queen Saraleh Sharon's entry two years ago, which came so low in the judging that Israel wasn't eligible to compete last year.

The other entrants are: Avi Eliot - "A long way from home"

Si Hi-Man - "On TV this evening"

Limor Twito - "Money"

Julia - "Something's happening"

Eli Luzzon - "My little angel"

Leah Lupatin and Ofer Levy - "The promised land"

Liora - "Amen"

Ya'acov Naveh - "Kiss me"

Haya Samir - "To redemption"

Tali Koren - "Like Brigitte"

The 'Skies' the limit for Batsheva choreographer

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

PORTUGUESE choreographer Vera Mantero was presented with an embarrassment of riches when she began working with the Batsheva Dance Company.

"These dancers are much more perfect technically speaking than the ones I've been working with," Mantero discovered this summer when she chose the performers for a work she was commissioned to produce especially

for Batsheva. "So I looked for personalities and creativity."

After six very hectic weeks she created *Different Skies, Different Clouds*. The 28-year-old dancer-choreographer isn't accustomed to working so quickly. "Usually I work for around three or four months on each of my new works. I had to adapt to this different framework. I always pre-

fer to work according to how my plan develops without following a scheme which is set by others."

The resulting work, Mantero says, "was built through improvisation and a lot of material was created by the dancers. I think a piece is a reflection of a moment for the performers, the director and the world. This piece is a gathering of certain people in a

room to say what they think it's all about."

What it's not all about is narrative. "I look for a speech more than a story. It's more like an essay than a romance, it's less fiction and more nonfiction and it's very concrete."

Different Skies is being staged nightly this week at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, along with a premiere by Finnish choreographer Taro Sallinen.

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The new ministry

THE debate over the need for an information ministry is as old as the state, but with few exceptions, opponents of the idea have usually won the day. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and former chief of army intelligence, the late Aharon Yariv, served as information ministers for short periods in the 1970s. But foreign ministry objections prevailed, and the information ministry was abolished. When Menachem Begin became prime minister in 1977 he appointed writer and former MK Shmuel Katz as information minister, but again the foreign ministry, headed by Moshe Dayan, successfully opposed the appointment.

The problem is mostly one of turf. The foreign ministry has a large information apparatus, and it is loath to give up its monopoly on the country's public relations effort. Yet there has always been public pressure to establish a special ministry for "hasbara" (the Hebrew term literally means "explanation," but it implies something between propaganda and public relations) because many felt that Israel's case is not presented skillfully enough abroad.

While the Arab propaganda machine, hand-somely subsidized by petrodollars, wreaks havoc with Israel's image, say promoters of the information ministry idea, the Israeli effort to counter calumny and "explain" Israeli policies is meager and ineffective. An office devoted to nothing else may do a better job.

Some opponents of a separate ministry for information believe that it smacks of totalitarian practices. Dictatorial regimes have such ministries, they say, while democracies - particularly in time of peace - do not. But this is not completely accurate. The United States Information Agency, for example, is an independent, well-endowed and powerful government agency with offices and representatives all over the world. That its director does not have cabinet rank has little impact on its importance. Other democracies have similar agencies.

Yet there is something disturbing about yesterday's cabinet decision to establish "a ministry for coordinating information and hasbara," and to award it to Police Minister Moshe Shaleh. Indeed, five Labor ministers who spoke against the new ministry in the cabinet said that what bothered them was not only that there would be an information minister, but that he

happens to be also the police minister.

This unhappy combination should give the government pause. It is unseemly enough for the police minister to have control over information emanating from government sources, but it is particularly disturbing in Shaleh's case. His record is so marred by disregard for basic rights of demonstrators (both of the right and the left) and indifference to complaints of police brutality, that the thought of his controlling information is decidedly worrisome. As Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein put it, "the whole idea seemed to have been lifted straight out of George Orwell's 1984. A democratic society has no need for a propaganda ministry headed by a commissar who is also in charge of the police."

This whole maneuver is an unfortunate result of the government's commendable effort to broaden the coalition. To ensure that two Knesset members who defected from Tsomet would join the government, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin awarded one of them, MK Gonen Segal, the energy and infrastructure ministry. To compensate Shaleh for depriving him of this ministry, which he has held - for no good reason - in addition to the police ministry, Rabin established an information ministry. For a government which on taking office spoke of trimming the cabinet and making it more efficient and frugal, this addition of a wholly unnecessary, expensive bureaucratic structure is nothing short of shameful.

On becoming foreign minister 30 months ago, Peres said only governments which conducted bad policies needed "hasbara." Good policies, he said, speak for themselves. And, indeed, the Israeli information effort abroad has been virtually abandoned, particularly since the signing of the Oslo agreement. For some reason, Arab propagandists have been reluctant to reciprocate in kind, and have not slackened their campaign of hatred against Israel.

Yesterday, aware of the objections of his own staff to the new information ministry, Peres agreed to vote for it only after he was allowed to add a sentence limiting it to propagating information domestically. Perhaps he is beginning to realize that a majority of the public do not share his view of the government's policies, and that the time has come to try to "explain" them.



Hosni's advice to Hafez

YOSEF GOELL

WHETHER or not Hosni Mubarak visits Israel isn't that important in itself. But it is a comment on the real state of relations between the two countries. His clear antipathy to setting foot in this country is persuasive evidence that Israel should oppose any agreement with Hafez Assad that requires risky Israeli territorial concessions on the Golan.

Anwar Sadat visited Israel several times after his historic address to the Knesset in Jerusalem. In refusing to visit Israel in the 13 years since he took over from Sadat, his successor is flouting the spirit of the 1979 peace agreement.

That agreement ushered in relations that were significantly better than what had existed before. However, they do not constitute peace - not even a "cold" peace - but simply a more acceptable form of nonbelligerence.

The framers of the 1979 treaty understood that long-standing enemies like Egypt and Israel couldn't slough off their suspicions and hostility overnight. In addition to a mutual renunciation of military threats, the agreement thus included Egyptian acquiescence in a long list of Israeli demands for "normalization" of relations between the two peoples. In the ensuing 16 years, Egypt

and Israel have adhered to the nonbelligerence aspects of the peace treaty, for which Israel paid by ceding all of Sinai to Egypt.

But Mubarak has flouted nearly all of the normalization clauses. There is virtually no meaningful trade between the two countries, because the Egyptian government scotches it. The same is true of attempts to foster individual and institutional relations.

Why Israelis should be grateful to Egypt's president

MUBARAK IS correct in saying that a government cannot force its people to love another people. But the slowly democratizing military dictatorship that is the Egyptian government has done absolutely nothing to further better relations with Israel among ordinary Egyptians. Nor have the more egregious antisemitic expressions in the state-controlled media and school system been eliminated.

And how should Israelis inter-

pret persistent Egyptian diplomatic efforts to undermine the decisions of other Arab, Moslem and black African countries to establish and improve relations with Israel, and Egypt's continued hostility to Israeli interests at the UN?

Foreign Minister Peres, a leading Mubarak apologist in Israel, keeps harping on the crucial role Egypt has played in the peace process.

That role has primarily consisted of talking the PLO into a pragmatic approach: taking as much as Israel was ready to give up, then proceeding, salami-like, to wrest additional concessions on statehood, on ceding the rest of the West Bank, and on the redrawing of Jerusalem, in subsequent stages.

This, in effect, has been the advice Mubarak has been pressing on Syria's Assad: take the Golan while the taking is good, then emulate Egypt with a "cold peace" as a *quid pro quo*.

Perhaps Israelis should be thanking Mubarak for impressing them with the true cost of a one-sided agreement with Syria, an agreement which would be even riskier than the one with Egypt.

The writer comments on public affairs.

Leket vs. Burg

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

CAN the archaic and unwieldy Histadrut and World Zionist Organization be transformed into modern, streamlined institutions?

MK Haim Ramon's election as Histadrut head last May was supposedly in the name of reform. In fact, he is presiding over the organization's systematic dismemberment.

Hopefully, this painful but unavoidable operation will lead to a structure which can deal effectively with the very real professional, economic and social needs of Israel's workers.

If the Labor Party opts for MK Avraham Burg as its candidate to head the WZO following Simcha Dinur's resignation, he is certain to play a role similar to Ramon's in the Histadrut.

Whether or not Burg, if elected WZO chairman, adopts the proposals recently raised by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin for overhauling Israel-Diaspora relations, he is unlikely to try and conserve the existing structure.

That the WZO must undergo

Out with the old and in with the new - but only at the proper time

drastic change to reflect the different needs of Israel and the Diaspora and the new balance in relations between the Jewish state and world Jewry is in no doubt. The question is whether now is the right time.

Unlike the Histadrut, whose financial situation made its continued existence in its previous form virtually impossible, the WZO isn't in a state of financial disintegration. Thus, at least in theory, there is nothing to stop it going on as it is for several more years.

One reason why a major overhauling should be delayed has to do with the peace process.

IT IS no secret that world Jewry - or that part of it which closely identifies with Israel - is divided over the process.

To try and overhaul the WZO today, before the fate of the process is known and in the midst of the debate about it, could be ruinous, especially if the WZO chairman is strongly identified with one of the extremes - either left or right - in the existing political spectrum.

The task today - and it is a complex one - is to maintain as much unity in the Jewish world as possible. Once it becomes clear whether the peace process has succeeded (as one hopes it will), or whether Israel must continue to exist in a state of perpetual war and growing international isolation (as it did from the end of 1973 to 1991), it will be possible to start restructuring relations between Israel and the Diaspora. And that will be either within the existing framework or, more likely, within a totally new one.

Under the circumstances, of the two Labor candidates to head the WZO, Yehiel Leket seems the more suitable.

Though Leket lacks Burg's flair and razor-sharp wit, his long experience within the WZO and his understanding of the complexities of the current situation qualify him to steer the Zionist ship through current choppy waters with a steady and determined hand. And as long as the ship is out at sea, it needs such a hand. Once it reaches a safe haven, its owners (not its skipper) might decide to scuttle it.

Leket, no less than Burg, is totally committed to the peace process pursued by the Labor-led government. Moreover, he has something Burg lacks: the ability to avoid alienating those who hold a totally different position from his own.

The fact that he is identified with Prime Minister Rabin and Avraham Burg is identified with Foreign Minister Peres is not what should decide the issue.

However, given Rabin's complicated relations with the world Jewish leadership - especially in the US - it would certainly be advantageous having a man the premier trusts as head of the WZO.

The writer is a political scientist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAEL AND LEBANON

Sir, - The possibility of withdrawal by Israel from southern Lebanon, as recently suggested by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, would represent a betrayal of Israel's only reliable allies in the region, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and the Christian population of southern Lebanon. The SLA has lost 300 men fighting alongside the IDF against Palestinian terrorists and surrogates of Syria and Iran.

Gur said talks could be held if Lebanon can ensure security in the south and curb Hizbullah. Security of northern Israel and southern Lebanon can be guaranteed by a Lebanese government fully independent of Syria and at peace with Israel, or in the absence thereof by an indigenous Lebanese force acting in open cooperation with Israel. The current Lebanese government was installed by Syria after Syria drove out the legitimate government of General Michel Aoun, with the blessing of the Bush administration, and remains subservient to Damascus. Has Gur forgotten that large numbers of Christians friendly to Israel were

killed by pro-Syrian militias after Israel withdrew from the Aley-Shouf area in 1983 and that this withdrawal virtually guaranteed Syrian hegemony?

According to Colonel Sharbel Barakat, the SLA director for external affairs and Middle East representative for the World Lebanese Organization, an Israeli withdrawal would likely be followed by pogroms in Jezzine and Marjayoun and a spate of assassinations. The response of the puppet government in Beirut would be to call for Syrian assistance in restoring order.

Israelis of all political views envision Israel as a "light unto the nations." Betrayal of an ally and emulation of the Bush administration is abandonment of the Lebanese Christians - unlike the Palestinians, they will not retaliate with terrorism and do not have the sympathy of oil-rich Arab states - would dim the light.

ERIC H. SILVERMAN
Highland Park, New Jersey.

OSLO PROTEST

Sir, - Your report of December 11 on protest demonstrations by Israelis in Oslo against the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Arafat distorts the actual events. About 100 demonstrators included terror victims and their families, a delegation of professors from the group of Professors and Lecturers for a Strong Israel, Rabbi Gold representing a very large group of rabbis, a group of American Jews and also simple Israeli citizens who all felt they could not keep silent about this legitimization of Arafat and all he stands for.

A very small group of Kahane people drew the attention of your reporter to the défilé of the main protest events. The local press reported extensively on protest demonstrations. The Israeli media ignored us as if a carefully orchestrated effort was made to describe a one-sided success story.

PROFESSOR ZVI EYAL,
Professors and Lecturers for a Strong Israel
Jerusalem.

MORE ABOUT TIBI

Sir, - Mr. K. Ben-Arie's letter of December 11 does not tell the whole story about Ahmed Tibi, the Israeli citizen who acts as the personal representative of Yasser Arafat. (September 1988.) In 1987 Tibi was fired from his job at Hadassah Hospital when he assaulted a Jewish guard and walked away as his victim lay bleeding on the floor.

He was also reported as saying that he had recently been offered a "safe place" on the Knesset list of Shulamit Aloni's Citizens' Rights Movement, but he turned down the offer - in part because his wife was revolted at the idea of him sitting in the Knesset as a representative of "a Zionist party."

MEIR ABELSON
Jerusalem.

TOO MUCH AMERICAN CONTENT

Sir, - The New York Times Weekly Review is a welcome supplement to the Post's foreign coverage, but the weekly Perspective is, in my opinion, of interest only to nostalgic Americans.

Some of the editorial cartoons are incomprehensible to anyone who is not closely following American politics; others convey their message through their verbiage instead of by their visual appeal. Then there are the so-called "humors" - stupefying in their banality. Do intelligent Americans really take an interest in such mindless trash?

Occasional articles are of some interest, but hardly necessary when we already have those on page 7 of The New York Times Review.

MISHA LOUVISH
Jerusalem.

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Never Mind Reform Taxes? Give Us a Break!

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

WASHINGTON
At this time 10 years ago, politicians and lobbyists throughout the capital were digging their trenches for the forthcoming battle over rewriting the United States tax code. What followed over the next two years was one of the fiercest legislative fights in this century.

In the end, against heavy odds because the stakes were so high, a tax system that was universally seen as hideously complicated and inequitable was completely overhauled. The principle behind the new law, one that academic authorities had advocated for years, was to keep rates as low as possible and to allow relatively few deductions, exemptions and other exceptions.

Tax rates were cut almost in half. Tax shelters were virtually eliminated. Industries with large disparities in their tax treatment were put on a more equal footing with one another. Many familiar deductions like those for credit-card interest, retirement savings and union dues were abolished.

But despite the extent of the change, the new system was quickly accepted in the towers of academe and the canyons of Wall Street, in liberal and conservative political circles, in accounting firms and law offices. And once ubiquitous tax lobbyists were mostly forced to find new lines of work.

Now, it looks as if the Tax Reform Act of 1986 will be unraveled in the next Congress.

President Clinton and Republicans and Democrats in Congress want to reinstate a variety of new tax breaks — not because they think this is good tax policy, but because they think it is good politics.

The Only Game in Town

The budget rules are now so rigid and new Government spending is so out of fashion that the politicians had to look for a new way to pass out favors to people whose votes they seek.

"It is the only thing available," said Representative Robert T. Matsui of California, a veteran of the tax war a decade ago who is now a senior Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee. "You can't spend money. So you have to deal in tax preferences. You have to do it through the back door."

Senator Bill Bradley, Democrat of New Jersey, the philosophical godfather of the 1986 law, said, "People seem to think that if they spend through the tax code, it's not really spending; it's free. That's ludicrous."

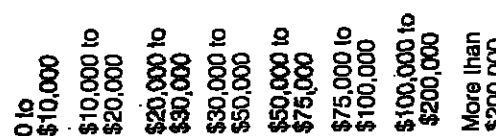
President Clinton wants to give families with incomes below \$60,000 a year a \$500 tax credit for each child younger than 13. He would allow families with incomes as high as \$120,000 a deduction of up to \$10,000

Continued on page 2

Tax Cuts: Two Ways

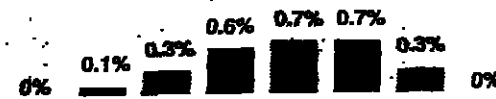
Winners and losers under two proposals to cut taxes on the middle class, and the current situation.

Family income:



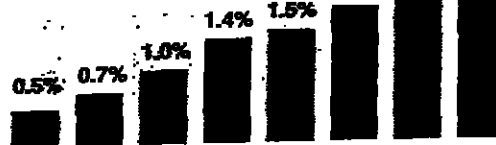
THE CLINTON PROPOSAL

Percentage each group's taxes would be reduced.



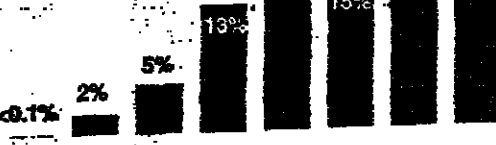
THE REPUBLICAN PROPOSAL

Percentage each group's taxes would be reduced, under the Contract With America.

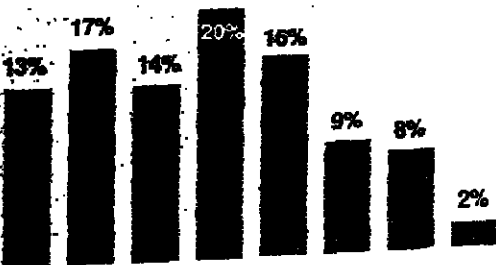


THE CURRENT SITUATION

Percentage of all Federal taxes paid by each income group. Includes income, payroll and excise taxes.



Percentage of households in each income group.



Because of rounding, figures may not add to 100%.

*Family adjusted income, which includes adjusted gross income and unreported income like Social Security payments and tax-exempt interest income.

Source: Office of Tax Analysis, Treasury Department



A deep belief in Christianity is expressed by worshippers at prayer in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince.

In a Harsh Land, Faith at Christmas

By LARRY ROHTER

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti
MUCH more than at any time in recent years, Haitians have good reason to celebrate this Christmas. The dictatorship that subjugated them has fallen, their beloved president-priest has returned to power and hope has been reborn. But religion is deeply woven into the fabric of daily life here, so much so that even buses bear names like "Trust in God" or "God Knows." To a degree difficult to imagine elsewhere, Haitians testify daily, not just on holidays or in a church or in a time of reborn hope, to their belief in the redemptive power of faith.

"Here the scope of religion is wider than in the United States and other countries," said the Rev. Jean-Yves Urfie, a French-born Roman Catholic priest who lived in New York City before transferring here and becoming a colleague and friend of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. "Maybe in the Middle Ages, France was just as religious as Haiti. But the question is what kind of religion do Haitians have?"

The modest nativity scenes at homes, the few drooping pine sprigs on sale as Christmas trees, and the absence of a holiday crush at stores this month all suggest there is little place for the material trappings of Christmas here. Life has usually been unrelentingly harsh for the people of Haiti, which is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and has not yet improved much in the short time since American troops landed in September. But in terms of beliefs, Haitians have a rich and varied canon to choose from.

Missionaries and clergy here often say that while 80 percent of Haitians are Roman Catholics and 20 percent are Protestants, all 100 percent believe in voodoo. Because voodoo by its nature blends symbols and concepts from various sources,

In their privation, Haitians draw all the time on a rich array of beliefs available in Christianity and voodoo.

most followers do not even consider themselves members of a separate religion. Instead, they look upon themselves as faithful Roman Catholics who simply "serve the spirits" and are trying to live morally in circumstances that are often difficult.

Like any other faith, voodoo offers a system of beliefs that provides both meaning and solace, qualities that are in short supply in the hard Haitian countryside. When a child succumbs to disease, parents need not feel guilt if they can ascribe the death to a loup garou, the werewolf that is believed to prey on the blood of babies. If a farmer's crop fails, he may interpret that as a sign of displeasure



In Plaine du Nord, Haiti, an animal is slaughtered as a gift to the gods during a voodoo ceremony.

of a loa, or spirit, rather than the result of a lack of water or fertilizer.

Though Christianity has traditionally regarded voodoo with hostility, that has been changing in recent years, at least among members of the clergy who consider themselves part of the progressive wing of the Roman Catholic Church. Instead of official campaigns of extermination like those carried out well into the 1950's, some priests have incorporated voodoo drumming and language into the mass and stressed doctrinal similarities between the two creeds.

"I do not consider voodoo to be an antagonist or an enemy of the Christian faith," but, rather, a vital expression of "a society close to nature, black and Haitian," Father Aristide wrote in his autobiography, "Every Person Is a Person," published in 1992. "In the veins of voodoo flows a blood that is Christian. The two are complementary in their opposition to evil."

Protestants, whose numbers are growing, have a more complex relationship with voodoo. "A goodly number of our converts come to us not because they no longer believe in voodoo, but because they believe our magic is stronger," one American missionary who has worked in rural Haiti for nearly a decade conceded reluctantly. "Some of them are churchgoers by day, but still go to the voodoo temples at night because they want the extra protection."

But for the average Haitian, especially those who live in the countryside, voodoo does more than play a spiritual foundation. In the absence of an effective and impartial government apparatus, it also provides an alternative system of justice. Without having to resort to the police or the courts, which are seen as unreliable or worse, transgressors are punished by the community, acting through the houngan, or voodoo priest.

"The poor man, the peasant, knows he can get no justice in the courts," Aboudja, a voodoo scholar and drummer, explained. "The judge and the lawyers speak French and work for the rich and scorn him. So he turns to voodoo for a solution."

Zombies Have a Role

In that context, legends such as that of the zombie function not as fodder for some Hollywood horror movie but as a valuable tool for maintaining social order. To a Haitian peasant, being transformed into a zombie is a fate worse than death because it means eternal slavery instead of returning to Guinee, the ancestral African homeland of the soul. In his book "The Serpent and the Rainbow," Wade Davis notes that zombies are not random victims of sorcery, but those who are being punished for crimes such as "any action that unjustly

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Ideas & Trends

In Bosnia, the War That Can't Be Seen

By ROGER COHEN

THU BOSNIA war is increasingly invisible. Its most recent crises, at Bihac in western Bosnia and Gorazde in the east, have had enormous repercussions around the world, but the two small towns themselves have remained lost in the fog of second-hand reporting. Western journalists, almost without exception, have been unable to get there.

The result is troubling, and the reports sometimes baffling. Serbian forces advance and advance and advance across towns you can drive through in five minutes. Villages are taken, then retaken by the same army a few days later. Casualty figures swing wildly, reported by local witnesses who may be hunkered down in their basements or distant from the scene.

The precise locality of photographs is often vague. Television crews plead for "bang-bang pictures" from commanders not above a touch of stage management.

The bizarre situation thus created in Bosnia is that journalists' access to information stands in inverse proportion to the volume of sophisticated gear they carry around to communicate what they know. The very possibility of instantaneous and worldwide transmission, it seems, has made the facts that much more politically explosive and so that much more necessary to conceal.

The Usual Reasons

Of course, there have been attempts to limit or censor reporting in most wars. The Pentagon set strict standards for the Gulf war that provoked the ire of many editors. But concern over divulging military information has usually been the main consideration behind the constraints.

In Bosnia, where attempts to manage and manipulate the press are now accorded as

much importance by Muslims and Serbs as maneuvers on the battlefield, the concern is much wider: that any graphic image or report could shift public opinion and so public policy. Thus does information become suspect and the journalist dangerous.

It took a while to learn this in Bosnia. The war was chaotic in the early months and more treacherous. But there were few restrictions. In August, 1992, I crossed the Bosnian border from Serbia in a bus full of Serbian volunteers armed to the teeth, and I followed them to the hills overlooking Sarajevo: telling images — too telling for today's bureaucratic and intensely media-conscious managers of the war in the Serbian stronghold of Pale and in Sarajevo.

The responsibility for the war's increasing disappearance from view lies with both sides, but particularly the Serbs, and with the United Nations, for its apparent complicity in this exercise.

Acutely aware that a strong press report can affect U.N. sanctions or NATO's role, the Serbs have taken to sealing off areas

Muslims and Serbs alike have things to hide from journalists.

under their control. The United Nations has allowed them to do so. The Muslim-led Bosnian Government has also become more restrictive, limiting access to advances in central Bosnia, perhaps out of concern that its image as victim could be affected.

When was a reporter last in Srebrenica, the seething and Serbian-encircled Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia? Or in Gorazde? When another shell hits the Bihac hospital, what does that really look like? As for Zepa,



Reports from Bosnia have been murky because reporters cannot get to the war. In Bihac, Serb soldiers observe Muslim positions.

another eastern enclave, no western reporter has managed to get there since it was surrounded by the Serbs.

At the end of the Gorazde crisis last April, Lieut. Gen. Sir Michael Rose took to berating the Sarajevo press for inflating Muslim casualties and so, he claimed, almost precipitating World War III. Why, then, I asked him, would he not put a handful of reporters into one of the U.N. helicopters then going to the town? Oh no, he replied, that would irritate the Serbs and cut off U.N. access to Gorazde. When I suggested he was kowtowing to the Serbs, he got angry.

But that, in essence, is the United Nations' policy toward the press. There is scant evidence that General Rose, or anybody else, has pressed the Serbs to allow journalists into Muslim enclaves, and on no occasion has the United Nations taken the initiative in deciding that information was more important than the Serbs' objections.

Announcing last week that journalists would henceforth be allowed on United Nations flights in Bosnia, Kofi A. Annan, the United Nations under-secretary for peace operations, said: "Peacekeeping operations in particular depend for their support on

widespread public awareness of the conflicts, and we are committed to doing everything we can to facilitate the work of the media." Up to now, however, this has not been the case.

In the Line of Duty

Of course, it is not the United Nations' business to do journalists' work for them. It is always possible to try to circumvent restrictions, by walking over a mountain and across a front line, for example. But in this conflict, where such courage has not generally been lacking, 46 journalists have been killed — far more than in Vietnam.

Journalists have been directly targeted, particularly by the Serbs, who think they are biased against them. Last month, Luc Delahaye of the Magnum photo agency and a colleague were picked up by the Serbs just north of the Bihac pocket. They were held for two days, kicked, punched, doused in cold water in freezing rooms, threatened with death, made to lean against walls with their entire body weight on their heads until they collapsed, kicked again and repeatedly interrogated. "Every time I would deny that

I was a spy for the Muslims and say I worked for Magnum, I braced myself for the next blow," Mr. Delahaye said. "You say the word — Magnum — and you know what it will trigger."

For "Magnum," the word "journalist" could easily be substituted. The Muslim-led government and the Serbs, not used to any open flow of information after five decades of Communist rule, have come increasingly to see international reporters as either tools or enemies.

It is not just in Bosnia that information is under attack. In another bitter conflict, in Algeria, 24 journalists have been killed in the last two years. The most recent, Said Mekbel, the editor of Le Matin of Algiers, was assassinated by Islamic fundamentalists on December 3. In his last, prophetic article, he wrote:

"This thief who, at night, hugs the walls as he walks home, is him. This father who recommends to his children never to mention his profession is him. This vagabond who does not know where to spend the night is him. This man who swears he will not die with his throat cut is him. He is all these things, and he is only a journalist."

Tax Reform, You Say? Give Us a Break.

Continued from page 1

to help offset college tuition expenses or the cost of other education or training after high school. And he wants much more generous treatment of tax-favored savings accounts called individual retirement accounts.

His proposals are modest compared with those of the Republicans who will be controlling Congress. In addition to a \$500 tax credit per child (for families with incomes up to \$200,000) and more generous I.R.A.'s, the "Contract with America" signed by most House Republicans calls for these tax breaks:

4A lower tax rate for capital gains — the profit from the sale of investments — and an elimination of taxes on any part of profit due solely to inflation.

4Tax credits for adoption expenses and the cost of caring for elderly dependents.

4A reduction of the so-called marriage penalty, the additional tax some working couples owe simply because they file joint returns.

4A repeal of last year's tax increase on middle- and upper-income Social Security beneficiaries.

4New tax breaks for life insurance and for insurance covering the cost of nursing home care.

4More favorable tax treatment of business investment in plants and equipment.

4An increase in the size of estates not

said Robert S. McIntyre, director of Citizens for Tax Justice, a research institute sponsored largely by labor unions. "You would be giving \$2,800 to a family that makes \$100,000 and sends the kid to Harvard, and only \$600 to a family making \$40,000 whose kid goes to State U."

Spare Change

According to calculations by the professional staff at the Treasury Department, which are not seriously disputed by Republicans, the President's proposals over all would cost the Government \$80 billion in lost revenue over the next five years. The tax reduction elements of the Republican contract would cost nearly \$200 billion over that period.

But as large as those sums sound, the money would be spread so thin that no one would get a windfall. For example, under the Clinton plan, a couple making \$50,000 with two children younger than 13 would get a reduction of less than \$20 a week.

The biggest tax saving under the Clinton plan, according to the Treasury's estimates, would go to taxpayers with annual incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Taxpayers at every level would fare better under the more generous Republican contract, but the largest saving would go to those with incomes above \$100,000.

All the politicians who support tax cuts insist that they will be offset by spending reductions, but they have not said exactly how they would accomplish that.

Reducing the Federal deficit, the overriding political issue last year, has now become as passé a topic in the political debate as, say, the question of whether the United States should turn over the Panama Canal to Panama. Republicans want a constitutional amendment to force a balanced budget, and Democrats orate about fiscal responsibility. But all the emphasis is on how to offset tax cuts.

The Clinton Administration denies that it wants to unravel the tax reform law. "I'm not saying we're not moving away from it," said Leslie B. Samuels, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for tax policy. "but I don't think it's a sea change."

'Feel Like Crying'

But those with the biggest political stake in the 1986 law feel differently. Senator Bob Packwood, the Oregon Republican who was Finance Committee chairman in 1986 and who will regain the post in the next Congress, said, "I feel like crying."

Once tax breaks are written into the code, Mr. Packwood said, "getting them out is like prying a rock out of the Rock of Gibraltar."

Perhaps the most daunting prospect is that with a major tax bill on the docket, the tax lobbyists will come out of hibernation and begin peddling their wares. Before long, the tax system could look like the one that was done away with in the mid-1980's.

"When you start moving a tax bill," said Lawrence F. O'Donnell, the departing chief of staff of the Finance Committee, "it becomes a lobbyists' bazaar. Everyone has a tax provision to sweeten in one way or another."

With spending out of fashion, Democrats and Republicans need another way to reward their friends.

subject to Federal tax.

Other politicians have also put forward what they call middle-class tax cuts. Representative Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, who will be the House Democratic leader in the new Congress, has proposed a tax credit of \$300 to \$600 for each child in families with annual incomes up to \$75,000. Senator Phil Gramm, a Republican from Texas, wants to double the exemption for dependent children, to \$5,000 from \$2,500, for families with incomes up to \$124,000.

Tax credits reduce dollar for dollar the amount of taxes owed. So a \$300 tax credit saves the taxpayer \$300. Exemptions and deductions are subtracted from income before taxes are calculated. This means they are more beneficial to affluent taxpayers in higher tax brackets.

For instance, an extra \$2,500 exemption, as proposed by Senator Gramm, would save someone in the 15 percent tax bracket \$375 (15 percent of \$2,500) and someone in the 31 percent tax bracket \$775.

This is one reason why some tax experts oppose the Clinton proposal that would provide a deduction of up to \$10,000 for college tuition costs. "It is an upside down subsidy,"

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Ideas & Trends

O-Eeeee-O! Please Ignore This Alarm

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

AHEM and YO! Or BLEEP-boop WHAAP-whoop! Or perhaps, Wa-OOO-Wa-OOO-WEEEEH! Not to mention, nnGONG-nnGONG! Better yet, Psst!: The six-tone, 128-decibel Viper Revenger is now programmable so that your anti-theft car alarm can have its own signature shriek. Maybe the whistles first, then the bells. Or the tinny honks to precede the siren whoops, followed by those indescribably pernicious squawks that seem to this alarmed listener — alarmed by an act of gratuitous noise, not property theft — to resemble a throng of bleating Munchkins announcing that the sky is falling.

By the second cycle of this aural Cain-raising, just as the cybernetic Munchkins sound close to the narcissistic truth ("What about my needs! My stuff! My car!"), it's clear the Viper alarm would be better named the Chicken Little. For it tattoos the neighborhood with a sound that serves not so much as a summoning of law-abiders as a notice of aggravation that good neighbors have learned is best left ignored.

Cauliflowered Souls

Alarming as they seem, the Viper and its many competitive noises are the sounds of America's anomic. "I have been awakened by this," says Sheldon S. Leffler, a New York City Councilman from din-ridden Queens, who sounds frayed as a man in need of uninterrupted sleep as he proposes the outlawing of all car alarms, down to each squeak, whoop and chirp. "Did I rush outside? No, I did not," confesses the lawmaker, so cauliflowered of ear and soul. "These things are routine. And with these various permutations, it's definitely not music."

The good councilman will not entertain my citizens-arrest proposal, that America's growing public of armed children be enlisted against the problem in the name of anti-pollution. The 8-millimeter tads could be authorized to lock-and-load and spritz all wayward alarm hearts to silence in behalf of abused taxpayers. Perhaps wear their own little SWAT windbreakers. Use the two-handed squat firing position we all savor on the tabloid-TV infotainments where the hammiest among the finest re-enact rare events of crime prevention, shouting "Freeze!" in lieu of "Yoicks!"

"Selfishness is built into the whole system," sighs Mr. Leffler, gently not hearing my idea, as if it were just another munchkin emanation from the Viper computer chip. "People park their cars blocks away and never hear their own alarms."

But the rest of us do. So much so that the



Since law-abiders are victimized by errant security systems, why not invent a bystander bypass?

es. A bobbing helium balloon left from an office party, or even a spider making its non-felonious rounds has been known to trigger a store's burglar alarm sensor as easily as a motorcycle sparks that wailing chain of car alarms. No wonder actual thievery at a caterwauling car seems like an act of revenge in behalf of all suffering listeners. Sensitivity dictates that we withdraw to a level where we can mainly scoff at that truck backing up with its peep!-peep! pointlessness.

Go Back to Sleep

Some alarm companies are responding to the listening public's crankiness with refinements, such as a program step that shuts an alarm sensor off for an hour after three false starts. So far there's no market sign of a badly needed device, let's call it Bystander Bypass, to use against that blithe driver who most mornings double-parks outside a Brooklyn candy store as he gets coffee and newspaper. He slams the door and leaves the alarm yowling unapologetically for, oh, two minutes of noise that the driver is suspected of enjoying as a kind of daily ego inventory.

Increasingly, there are quieter innovations like a silent pager that, sensing intrusion, alerts the car owner blocks away with the caniness of the Batmobile. Or the device that sends silent tracking signals for pursuing police to home in on; or an ignition interceptor that blocks internal combustion itself.

Most poetically promising of all the new sounds may be Piezo, an alarm designed to inflict inner-ear pain on the thief once he is inside the car. A very shrill, high-frequency device that, for \$25, zings a malefactor's ears right from under the dash as he stoops to hot-wire. For \$35, you get Superloud Piezo to double-zing the yegg, to really box his ears as if he were some mere member of the listening public, one of the spear carriers in the great American opera of shrieking for property protection. Listen, all progress is relative; at this rate it may come time to whisper yippee.

culture has become a deranged tattling of competing alarms in which the operative question is, Which can be ignored first? We sift the noise passively, wondering not so much about instant public safety as changing esthetics. (Hark! Is that passing emergency vehicle actually reproducing the old BEE-booo! BEE-booo! siren of mid-century European cities? A frightening sound, in truth, to some immigrant citizens even 50 years after the end of fascism. Who was klutzy enough to program that?)

Sorry, the sounds make us digress. Let us resolve to revel darkly in them, or at least memorize the latest alarms, the better to safely ignore them. My favorite is Back Talk, from the same ingenious company, Directed Electronics Inc., that produces the Viper. This is a factory-programmed loud-speaker system with a Schwarzenegger-like voice of warning before the car alarm goes

off. "PERIMETER VIOLATION! STAND BACK!" it warns gruffly to that startled dog and pedestrian who may be wielding a mere pooper-scooper, not a crowbar. The voice (actually that of the company president, Darrell Issa) firmly counts down five seconds to allow the pedestrian to back off from the system's adjustable five-foot perimeter. "TENK YOU!"

All Bluff and Banter

Neato. Even better is the company's innovation to let you personally record warning messages and do absentee fantasies of the go-ahead-make-my-day variety. ("Pilgrim! This is Jason. Sorry I'm not here to intercept your sorry butt. But fragments of your DNA material have already been ingested for identity analysis in the New Highwayman Subsumer feature that's part of the car

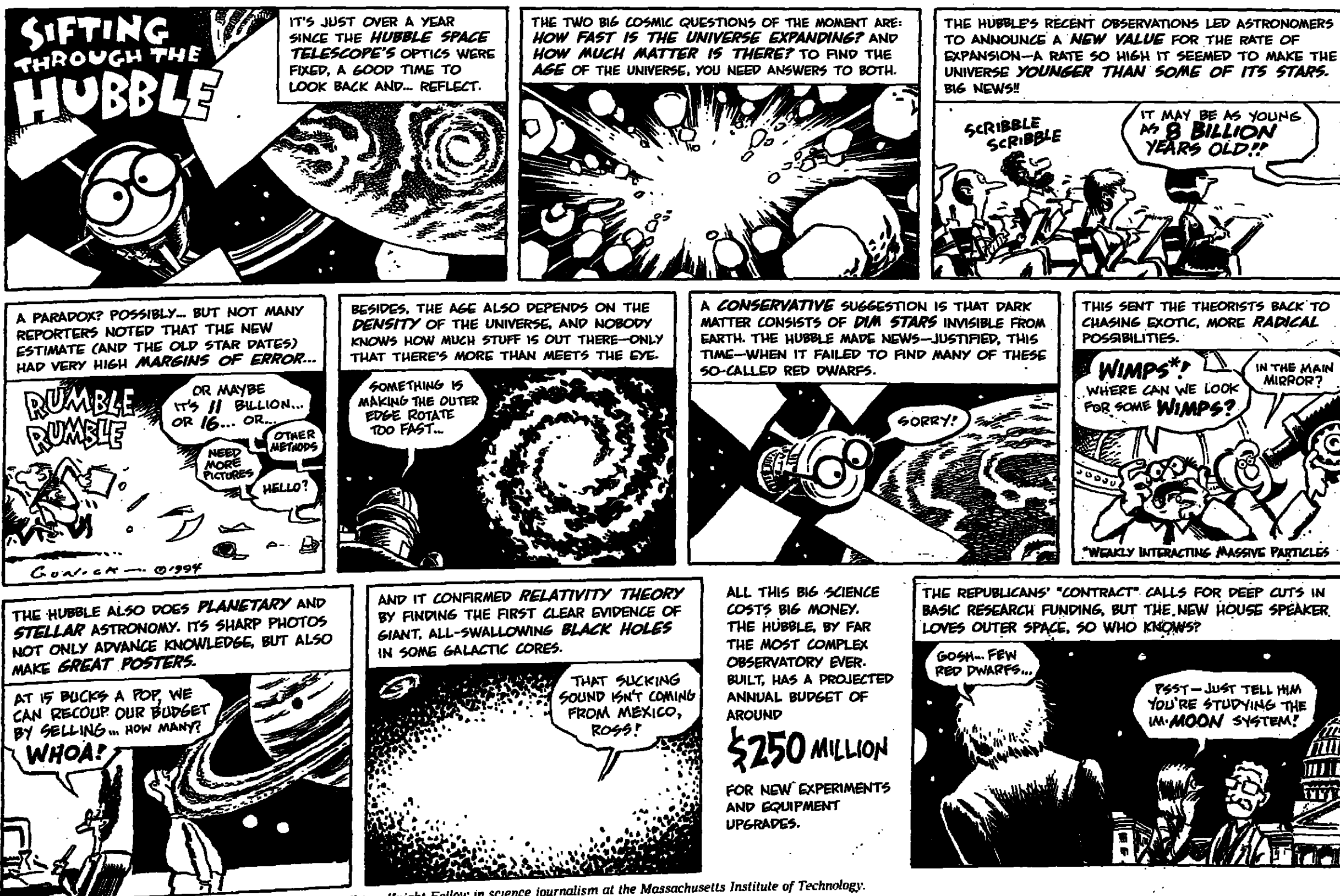
you're coveting in your overreachings from the underclass.")

Some rival companies' alarms feature simply a woman's recorded screams suddenly erupting, shrill as Fay Wray watching Kong tickle the curbside Mercedes like a Tonka. Or just plain loud bulldog barks and snarls, too. Customizing can increase the decibel shock with the easy addition of diesel-truck air horns to the car alarm, a brassy touch worthy of Berlioz. Or the car horn can be cleverly programmed to keep beeping out S-O-S to alert the many sleeping apartment dwellers who, undoubtedly knowledgeable in Morse code, would want to help.

The point is to make the thief move along, not necessarily maintain the serenity of the rest of us. The nation's enormous property-security industry is rife with false alarms that cost millions in wasted police response.

Making Sense of the Universe, on the Fly

By LARRY GONICK



Larry Gonick, author of "Cartoon History of the Universe," is a Knight Fellow in science journalism at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The World

U.S. Stays Aloof From Russia's War Within

By MICHAEL R. GORDON

RUSSIA'S pro-democracy movement was outraged as Moscow's troops tightened their grip around Grozny last week. But the Clinton Administration, which says it shares the goals of the democracy advocates, all but blessed President Boris N. Yeltsin's efforts to bring the breakaway Chechen republic to heel.

The Russian military campaign there barely rated a mention when Defense Secretary William J. Perry met in Moscow on Dec. 16 with Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov, the chief of Russian general staff, to talk about Bosnia and NATO issues. And after his trip, Mr. Perry repeated the Administration's line, that Russia's handling of Chechnya was an internal affair, though one Washington hoped would involve a minimal amount of bloodshed.

"Provided it is not destabilizing beyond

The Administration says it's on the side of Russian democracy advocates. Some of them seem to disagree.

the scope of that activity," Mr. Perry added, "I do not see it as affecting our desire to have a pragmatic partnership with Russia."

To be sure, there are serious threats to American security and the fate of the Chechen republic is not one of them. But while Chechnya may be a Russian matter in legal terms, there is no such thing as a purely internal matter in an age of satellite broadcasts. Television has carried pictures of Russia's almost random air strikes against civilians in Grozny to Moscow and beyond.

Letting It Ride

By the end of the week, the Clinton Administration's detachment was beginning to look like indifference. And it found itself in the odd position of tacitly supporting a military action opposed by a majority of Russians, including pro-democracy supporters, Parliament, Russian human rights supporters — even many in the military.

Just as the Bush Administration initially put its bets on one man — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union — the Clinton Administration seemed to be casting its lot with President Yeltsin come what may.

Defending their hands-off approach, Administration officials say the Chechnya crisis, while a compelling humanitarian story, is only a smaller part of a larger puzzle.

The United States, they said, is concerned first and foremost with the security of the nuclear stockpile in the former Soviet Union and with encouraging continued political and economic reforms there.

Both objectives hinge on Russia's ability to avoid civil strife and on Washington's ability to maintain a good working relationship with the Russian Government.

To that end, the White House has gone out of its way to try to ease Russian suspicions about the West, favoring a go-slow approach on expanding NATO. Meanwhile, the Pentagon has sought to strengthen ties with Gen. Pavel S. Grachev, the Russian Defense Minister and the architect of the military campaign against Chechnya, and other members of the Russian high command.

For Washington, the Chechnya crisis has been seen as a threat to the relationship the Administration is trying to build with the Yeltsin Government.

But while the Administration may view Chechnya as a distraction from the main



Russian attacks on Chechnya have been opposed by democracy advocates while the Clinton Administration has been circumspect. Russian soldiers outside Grozny.

event, it has proven to be too large to be ignored.

Dimitri Simes, the head of the Nixon Institute on Peace and Freedom, said the Administration should have handled the Chechnya affair differently.

It should have told the Russians that while Chechnya was indeed an internal affair, there are political realities in the West as well, Mr. Simes argued. A more conservative Congress — one less sympathetic to Russia — is about to take power in Washington. And images of Russia's bombers and tanks blasting civilians will be long remembered when the Administration seeks the support of lawmakers for aid to Russia and new joint American-Russian projects. That sort of argument would have allowed the Clinton Administration to respect Russian sovereignty while encouraging military restraint, Mr. Simes said.

Shift in Tone

But the Administration's response to the crisis appears instead to be reactive and aimed in part at public opinion at home. Only when the Russian military stepped up its air strikes, and charges of human rights abuses were leveled by Russian officials, did the Clinton Administration begin to shift the tone of its comments, and even then its response was tepid.

On Friday, the State Department took note of complaints by Sergei Kovalev, head of the Russian President's commission on human rights.

"We will be following this up with the Russian Government in order to evaluate the facts," said a State Department spokesman, David Johnson. "Respect for fundamental human rights has been and will continue to be a basic precept of U.S. policy toward Russia."

Defying the Skies in Chechnya

By MICHAEL SPECTER

GROZNY, Russia

SOME of the worst people in the world live in this city: murderers, thugs, drug dealers and thieves. On bomb-cratered streets, stolen Mercedes and BMW's still have their Moscow license plates. Last week, new Volvos were going for \$3,000. Molotov cocktails are stacked in the pantry of one of the city's only functioning restaurants.

But anyone who looks at Chechnya and just sees a bunch of gangsters isn't looking very hard. There is an honesty and sincerity among the people here that disappeared from the cash-crazed streets of Moscow a long time ago.

Where in Moscow rudeness is common at the quietest of times, here people will risk their lives for strangers they are never going to see again. In Moscow, political freedom seems to mean the right to scream at people in Parliament. Here it means independence.

As with so many other people in this part of the world — people in Armenia and Azerbaijan until recently, people in Tajikistan and Siberia now — the Chechens have been trying to free themselves from the clutches of imperial Russia for centuries. Chechen soldiers have fought superior forces every time, with daggers, knives, rocks, even poison. They never win and they never stop.

THERE is a cinematic aura to random death. People sit on rugs that once were the pride of the Caucasus drinking tea. Then a war plane swoops across the city and blows away 10 houses in less time than it takes to start a car. Then people sit on the rugs again and drink their tea.

The city, once inhabited by 400,000 people, has been deserted by all who can leave. It is often people of Russian nationality, with no family in the nearby mountains to rely on, who are now left behind to wait for the bombs to fall. Cholera is a threat. Heat is a luxury. The city hospitals were on the verge of collapse before a single bullet was fired.

And if there is a future under Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechens' inflexibly separatist, bizarrely brazen leader, it is grim.

But so are the alternatives. "What Russia doesn't understand is that we will do whatever it takes to be free," Abdul-Iah Idrisbayev said last week as he stood with tens of thousands of people in a line stretching 37 miles to the border of Dagestan to protest the indiscriminate bombing of Grozny. "Death is also freedom."

THAT seems messianic, nihilistic, half-baked. But it isn't strange if you understand the basic fact of modern Chechnya, captured in the most striking piece of sculpture in Grozny, a huge stone fist with an enormous knife rising from it. On Feb. 23, 1944, on the holiday that was then known as the Day of the Soviet Army, Josef Stalin ordered every single Chechen deported to central Asia. More than half a million were dispatched, mostly in cattle cars where many died of typhus and the cold. Only two-thirds returned.

"Everyone remembers the day they took us away," said the Chechen Foreign Minister, Yusuf Shamsudin. "That will never happen again."

Despite their defiance, the people of Grozny are generous. If they have a loaf of bread, you do, too. If their cars have gas, you have a ride. Although one would think this would be a time for Russian

residents to fear the wrath of their neighbors, there has been not a single report of attacks on Russian residents by a Chechen national.

Although almost every man of fighting age in the city carries as many weapons as he can grasp, they seem to shoot only to extinguish the lights, that their compatriots failed to dim.

WEEPING women are supposed to be a staple of war. But last week it seemed as if

they only cried in disgrace because they were unable to offer a visitor a proper meal. Poor people here don't think about their strategic oil pipelines or the train tracks through the region linking Russia with the Caspian Sea. They don't care that the Russian government of Boris N. Yeltsin, which is bombing what it regards as Chechens, has contended that Chechens are blowing up their own apartment blocks to make it look like Russian atrocities.

They care about their families, their jobs, their God. At night, when the bombs aren't falling, this Muslim city is so silent that you can sometimes hear the collective wall of men to prayer. Vendors at the night market, lit by the glow of a single kerosene flame, still sell carrots drenched in garlic, fragrant Russian pickles and a few other odds and ends. But time and food are running out.

"I can sit at home and get killed," said Lena Rasponova, who was born in Moscow but has lived here for 10 years, as she stood by her produce stand about 200 yards from the Presidential Palace. "Or maybe I can get killed here doing my job. I don't think waiting at home is going to make me safer or happier. If this is the way they want me to die, then this is the way I'll die."

Faith at Christmas In a Harsh Land

Continued from page 1

keeps another from working the land" or "excessive material advancement at the obvious expense of family and dependents."

The houngan can also function as a physician or psychiatrist: at least one well-known doctor here often sends his patients to voodoo practitioners when conventional Western medicine does not yield satisfactory results. "The true houngan is a priest, an extraordinarily whole person who channels, orients, revives and gives life to the community's faith," Father Aristide wrote admiringly. "By another route, he has acquired certain psychological intuitions: the psychoanalysis he practices, in his own manner, can lead to healing."

With Father Aristide back in power after three years in exile, voodoo promises to enjoy a new period of official tolerance and popular acceptance in Haiti. The same Constitution that made possible his election also guaranteed the freedom to practice voodoo, and the President has consistently emphasized reconciliation as the only solution to the country's daunting problems.

It was in keeping with the Haitian character that the country looked to a priest to deliver it from evil and that Father Aristide portrayed his renunciation of the priesthood

as a sacrifice made for the benefit of his people. Though he left the priesthood last month under what his friends described as intense pressure from the Vatican and Haitian bishops, his followers continue to call him "the little prophet" and his own speeches are still laced with images and ideas common to both Catholicism and voodoo.

Religious Terror

The last religious figure to govern Haiti, of course, was the dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, who often appeared in public dressed as the voodoo deity Baron Samedi and brought houngans into line by claiming he was the Immaterial Being, voodoo's supreme power. Papa Doc used voodoo to terrorize and manipulate the population, but the roots of the faith run so deep in Haitian society that not even his abuses discredited it or weakened its hold.

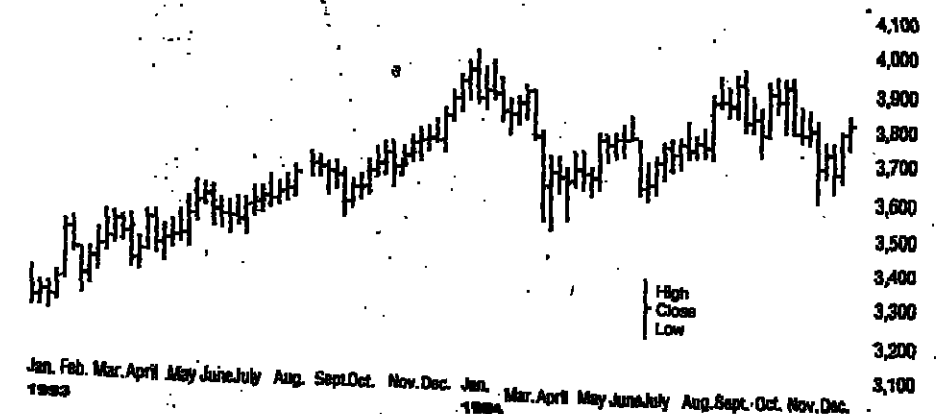
"The difference between religions now is not one of Catholicism versus voodoo, Protestantism or atheism," Father Urfile said. "The real difference is between the people who believe that the poor do not need to live in misery and those who do not. The dictatorship exploited both voodoo and Catholicism, but through that experience we may perhaps reach a higher level of faith."



One more refugee: a woman takes her belongings from a house destroyed by air raids in Grozny.

The Stock Market Last Week

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE



MARKET DIARY

	NYSE	NASDAQ	AMEX
Advanced	1,373	2,286	384
Declined	1,332	2,176	409
Unchanged	370	988	177
Issues Traded	3,075	5,460	970
New Highs	82	168	23
New Lows	312	332	105

MARKET INDEXES

	Close	Chg	%Chg	YTD %
D. J. Indust	3,833.43	+26.24	+0.69	+2.11
D. J. Transp	1,434.54	+18.40	+1.30	+18.60
D. J. Util	181.19	-1.05	-0.58	-20.98
S&P 500	459.83	+1.03	+0.22	+1.42
S&P Indust	547.67	+3.08	+0.57	+1.38
NYSE Comp	250.95	+0.41	+0.16	+3.14
Nasdaq	742.19	+13.12	+1.80	+4.46
Amex	428.78	+2.55	+0.60	+10.14
Russell 2000	244.73	+3.73	+1.55	+5.36
Wilshire 5000	4,527.30	+23.12	+0.51	+2.80
Value Line	275.34	+2.86	+1.05	+6.75

INTEREST RATES

	30-Year Bonds	Municipal Bonds	Three-Month Treasury Bills
1993	9	5	3
1994	7	4	3
1995	6	3	3
1996	5	2	3
1997	4	2	3
1998	3	2	3
1999	2	2	3
2000	1	2	3
2001	1	2	3
2002	1	2	3
2003	1	2	3
2004	1	2	3
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2018	1	2	3
2019	1	2	3
2020	1	2	3
2021	1	2	3
2022	1	2	3
2023	1	2	3
2024	1	2	3
2025	1	2	3
2026	1	2	3
2027	1	2	3
2028	1	2	3
2029	1	2	3
2030	1	2	3

New York Stock Exchange

MOST ACTIVE				PERCENTAGE GAINERS				PERCENTAL LOSERS			
Vol. (00)	Last	Chg.	Pct.	Last	Chg.	Pct.	Last	Chg.	Pct.		
telMex	669216	40%	+ 9%	Caesar	11 1/4	+ 2 1/2	47.5	Fiat p/a	9	- 8 1/2	49.7
RJR	268097	5%		Rhodes n	11 1/4	+ 2 1/2	32.4	GrupMex B n	9	- 5 1/4	39.0
Hansn	181629	18 1/2	+ 1/4	RPC	8 1/4	+ 2	32.0	GrupSidel n	10 3/8	- 5 1/2	35.2
GM	149065	41 1/4	+ 3/4	MolBio	12	+ 2 1/4	23.1	EmprLd n	17	- 8 1/2	33.3
S&P 500	143596	39 1/4	+ 1	Ampco	8 1/2	+ 1 1/2	21.4	GrupMex L n	11	- 5 1/2	33.3
Merck	124722	22	- 1	DisAutoP	19 1/8	+ 3 1/2	20.5	GrupFnsr n	8 1/4	- 1 1/4	31.4
WalMart	123176	66 3/4	+ 21 1/2	Pet	20 1/2	+ 3 1/2	20.4	GrupEmbn n	14 1/8	- 1 1/4	29.6
Caesar	119899	27	+ 3/4	Aydn	13 1/2	+ 2 1/4	20.2	MexEq x	15 1/2	- 1 1/4	29.4
FordM	112865	39 1/4	+ 3/4	Teldyn	20 1/2	+ 3 1/2	19.7	Empica	19 1/2	- 7	28.9
Compq s	110133	12 1/4	+ 1/8	ContAir B	9 1/4	+ 1 1/2	19.4	GrupDek n	14 1/4	- 5 1/2	28.5
Borden	109526	73 1/2	+ 3/4	PlayB B	10 3/4	+ 1 1/2	18.6	GrupO n	19 1/8	- 1 1/4	28.4
IBM	107655	32 1/2	- 7 1/2	Inrtan	8 1/4	+ 1 1/4	17.5	Banpaish n	4 1/4	- 1 1/4	28.3
GrupTele	107384	49 1/4	+ 1/2	Italy s	9 1/4	+ 1 1/2	17.5	LnADF	17 1/4	- 6 1/4	28.0
GenEx s	104702	20 1/2	+ 1 1/8	Convex	7 1/4	+ 1 1/8	17.0	Vtro	13 1/2	- 4 1/2	28.0
Glaxo	104189	21 1/2	- 1 1/8	NStand	11 1/4	+ 1 1/2	16.9	EmMex	12 1/4	- 4 1/2	28.0
YPF Soc n											

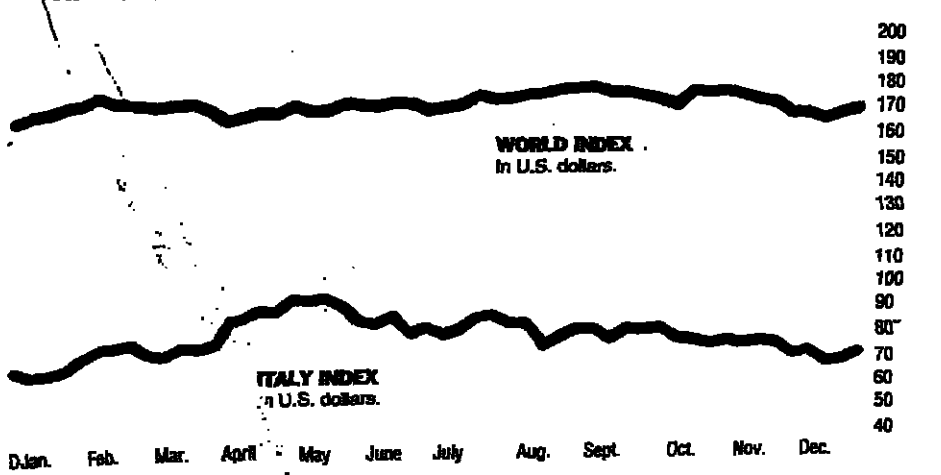
Nasdaq

MOST ACTIVE			PERCENTAGE GAINERS			PERCENTAGE LOSERS		
Vol. (00)	Last	Chg.	Last	Chg.	Pct.	Last	Chg.	Pct.
Intel	319165	62 1/2 + 3	LnOptics	9 1/2 + 3 1/2	68.9	MicomComm	9 - 6 1/2	40.5
Mosft s	269524	60 1/2 - 2 1/2	VicFn s	11 1/2 + 3 1/2	43.8	Fossil	13 1/2 - 7 1/4	36.3
Novell	158831	17 1/2 + 1 1/2	Yestar	5 + 1 1/2	42.9	ConsGphcs	11 1/4 - 6	34.8
Oracle s	156995	43 1/2 + 4 1/2	Kenetch	15 1/2 + 4 1/2	36.7	PrfEnt	10 - 5 1/4	34.4
Cisco s	145950	35 1/4 + 2	DikE	21 + 5 1/2	35.5	Trism	7 1/4 - 4	34.0
MCi	143290	18 1/2 - 1/8	NetMan s	38 1/4 + 9 1/4	34.2	Stokely	6 - 2 1/2	32.4
BayNetw s	134078	28 1/4 + 2 1/2	Centric wt	14 + 3 1/2	33.3	Cyrax	20 1/4 - 8 1/4	29.0
Cym	132803	20 1/4 - 8 1/4	4 D Soft	5 + 1 1/4	33.3	MontPasta	6 1/2 - 2 1/4	28.6
TelCm A	94754	22 1/2 + 1 1/2	GoldRs	8 1/4 + 2 1/2	33.3	SerFnQd	8 1/2 - 3 1/4	28.0
Adobe s	89986	29 1/4 - 3 1/4	Nexagen	5 1/2 + 1 1/2	32.4	ComWid A	4 1/2 - 1 1/2	25.5

American Stock Exchange

MOST ACTIVE				PERCENTAGE GAINERS				PERCENTAGE LOSERS			
Vol. (00)	Last	Chg.		Last	Chg.	Pct.		Last	Chg.	Pct.	
DigCm	71108	6 1/2	+2 1/2	Genisco	7 1/4	+4 1/2	129.6	VREF I	3 1/2	-3 1/4	51.7
Udpo	48924	2	- 1/2	IntDigCm	6 1/2	+2 1/2	74.6	VREF II	4 1/2	-1 1/4	28.6
VisionVar t	27991	1 1/4	...	SemPck	5 1/2	+1 1/2	40.6	GrupSi n	16 1/2	-4 1/4	20.6
SPR	26881	46 1/4	+ 5 1/2	Eptope	24 1/2	+4 1/2	22.1	QiyProd	7 1/2	-1 1/4	14.9
Vidom B	25195	39 1/4	- 3/4	Aurora	5 1/2	+ 7/8	20.6	USAlc p/a	16	-2 1/2	14.1

World Stock Markets



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the FT Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and NatWest Securities Ltd. in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURRENCY			
	Index	% Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	Index	% Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.
Australia	172.59	0.9	14	3.4	10	3.90	147.70	-9.7
Austria	178.45	1.2	13	-3.5	17	1.11	148.17	-12.2
Belgium	166.85	0.4	20	2.6	11	4.14	133.28	-8.1
Britain	193.60	1.2	12	-5.6	40	4.16	185.57	-9.7
Canada	129.33	1.3	11	-4.8	14	2.63	131.04	0.7
Denmark	244.27	2.5	7	-1.2	16	1.45	205.55	-10.0
Finland	180.54	2.8	4	-6.6	21	3.05	140.60	-13.7
France	164.43	0.4	19	-0.3	14	81	114.78	-9.4
Germany	139.86	0.7	17	-32.5	23	3.78	327.94	-32.4
Hong Kong	330.11	0.9	15	9.3	6	3.4	187.23	1.1
Ireland	202.40	2.8	5	8.0	7	1.74	90.78	3.5
Italy	74.09	4.7	1	19.2	3	0.78	98.28	7.1
Japan	155.18	2.2	8	-18.0	22	1.76	478.85	-22.0
Malaysia	485.15	4.5	2	-38.9	24	1.37	746.30	-8.0
Mexico	1458.76	-23.2	24	6.8	8	3.37	171.30	-2.9
Netherlands	212.55	0.8	16	4.9	9	4.98	58.98	-8.7
New Zealand	71.22	-0.5	22	15.6	5	1.70	194.9	5.8
Norway	207.69	2.6	6	2.0	12	1.70	252.8	-7.2
Singapore	374.99	3.0	3	24.9	2	2.22	296.37	18.3
South Africa	333.57	2.1	9	-3.6	18	4.21	135.53	-0.2
Spain	134.34	-2.5	23	16.9	4	1.57	254.74	1.1
Sweden	229.65	0.6	18	1.9	13	1.81	134.75	-8.5
Switzerland	183.11	1.4	10	-0.9	15	2.95	188.14	-0.5
United States	188.14	0.2	21					

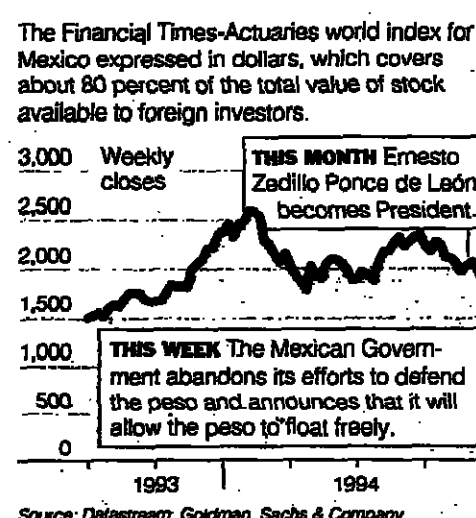
COMPOSITE INDICES
Europe 167.38 1.0 -1.3 3.09 151.45 -8.3
Europe/Pacific 164.70 1.7 6.2 1.99 124.85 -2.8
World 172.26 0.9 3.0 2.33 146.76 -2.1

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close.
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The Economy

The Mexican Miracle, Apparently, Was Not What It Seemed

Ross Perot, trying to head off the North American Free Trade Agreement, warned that if the accord became reality, Mexico would devalue the peso, letting low-price goods flood northward. He may have been partly right. Mexico, it seems, tried mightily to prop up the peso, but last week that effort failed — failed big. The peso, already weakening, plummeted when Mexico let it go into free-fall against the dollar. Some costs were quick: banks and other investors lost a bundle. And some will stick around: an abrupt loss of confidence in the new President, Ernesto Zedillo, and a fear of new economic chaos in a nation seemingly getting its footing. So how did the Mexican Miracle take such a nasty spill? Perhaps because that miracle was kept alive more on hope than on basics. The hope now: a new, solid beginning with the peso at a lower, more stable level.



Listen to the Children

Think of "hand-held electronic organizers" and you naturally think of sleek, solemn, hyped-up executives. At least American companies think that way; in Japan they had a better idea — make them for children. And now they're a big hit with preteen-age girls (the boys are still hooked on Sega and the like), who use them for fortune-telling games, or to create computer-animated virtual pets, or perhaps to "whisper" messages across a room. Casio, heading the lesson, has started selling kid-level organizers in the United States. There's probably a lesson here for Apple Computer and its Newton "personal digital assistant": The children know.



Shopping in Tokyo.

Owls and 'Welfare Cowboys'

One environmentalist from President Clinton got his way in one little and retreated from another. He put a lot of effort into resolving a dispute about logging in North-west forest that house the fabled owl, and the Actinoptera came up with a plan allowing harvests as high as a fifth of 80's levels. And last week a Federal judge approved the plan. At the same time, Interior Secretary Babbitt backed down from a plan to increase grazing fees for public lands, leaving the issue to the Republicans. Environmentalists jumped hard on the one with one lawyer predicting that Congress would "perpetuate subsidies for welfare cowboys."

World Markets/John Tagliacozzo

Italy Awaits Fallout of a Political Crisis

ROME — I was a week when Italians asked themselves whether they should be watching politics or the economy. This time, the two looked more inextricably linked than they had been in a while. The ill-starred Government of the tycoon-turned-Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, was pulled down on Thursday by his squabbling coalition partners. And on the same day that Mr. Berlusconi handed President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro his resignation, the Governor of the Bank of Italy, Antonio Fazio, warned Mr. Scalfaro of a worsening financial situation, one marked by signs that inflation was rising again and that interest rates were pressing upward. Yet, as Italians braced for a Christmas of uncertainties, the stock market in Milan posted five consecutive sessions of recovery and six of seven over all, after a slide that had seen equity prices slip more than 25 percent since May. The lira was holding steady, if not gaining, against leading currencies like the German mark and American dollar. Indeed, signals were strong that foreign capital was flowing back into Italy, attracted by the high yields of Government bonds and the bargains found among Italian equities. The strength of the stock market was being fueled by indications from industry of a nascent but strong business recovery.

Some analysts were concerned that the political crisis would undermine Rome's resolve in fighting inflation and reducing the budget deficit, thus widening the spread between yields on Italian and German Government bonds, the European benchmark. "We're still skeptical," said Peter Sullivan, an investment strategist at Merrill Lynch in London. "If you have a stable Government with a coherent fiscal policy, say with a four-year plan, you could see bond yields go down 250 to 300 basis points."

Currency

	Last Week	Prior Week	Yr. Ago
Japanese Yen per Dollar	100.13	100.21	110.60
German Mark per Dollar	1.5790	1.5730	1.6950
Canadian Dollar per U.S. Dollar	1.3994	1.3918	1.3255
British Pound per U.S. Dollar	1.5450	1.5504	1.5040
Gold	\$380.50	\$378.80	\$386.00

Carter Plays Softball

Talk about the sacred and the mundane! Jimmy Carter, hopping about the globe in a crusade for world peace, last week offered his services in a surprisingly humble dispute — one in which, though feelings run high, no bloodshed seems likely. Yes, we're talking baseball, and Mr. Carter's gesture didn't seem to help. Players and owners have so far managed to erase a sizable business from the American map, and the owners just declared an impasse and decreed a salary cap — when, that is, salaries are paid.



Michelle V. Agnes/The New York Times

Open Gift, Insert Foot

The Christmas gift to clients — it's usually a cliché so tired it's snoring on arrival. A bottle of Scotch, perhaps — or maybe a bottle of Scotch. But now, into this imaginative void, leaps Raoul Felder. After Mr. Felder, a Manhattan divorce lawyer, dropped a knife on his foot some years ago, he was flooded with slippers of sympathy — 150 pairs, which he then had to give away. Aha! he said, and a furry idea was born. This year, when gift season descended, he sent out 200 pairs of slippers that have a marked likeness to Mr. Felder — hardly surprising, since he'd sent off multiple photographs and sketches to a slipper importer, which in turn got a Chinese factory to do the deed. With stuff like this, who needs lawyer jokes?

'Liberal Books Don't Sell'

How Newt Gingrich's reported contract ranks next to some recent advances for book deals. Some figures are estimates. All figures are in millions of dollars.

Barbara Taylor Bradford	\$24
Norman Schwarzkopf	\$5
Maqsood Johnson	\$5
Newt Gingrich	\$4.1
Sam Walton	\$4
Bill Gates	\$2.5

Newt Gingrich once accused House Speaker Jim Wright of fuzzy ethics concerning sales of a book Mr. Wright had written (and earned \$50,000 from). Soon, farewell Mr. Wright; five years later, enter Mr. Gingrich. And last week came reports that Mr. Gingrich had signed a \$4 million-plus book contract with HarperCollins, a Murdoch publishing house. Representative David Bonior labeled the deal a "\$4 million Christmas gift" from an empire that includes the Fox network, which faces a regulatory battle. A spokesman for Mr. Gingrich called Mr. Bonior "an attack dog." As for Mr. Gingrich, he said, "Conservative books sell. I can't help it if liberal books don't sell."

The New York Times

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ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1935-1961
OWEN L. DRYFOOS, Publisher 1961-1963
ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1963-1992

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A Christmas Reversal

In December of 1883, 40 years after Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" was first published, this page may have sounded its most curmudgeonly note ever. That was the year in which The Times approvingly noted that there seemed to be a decline in the popularity of "the German Christmas Tree — a rootless and lifeless corpse."

On its German origins we were not mistaken, unless scholarly readers insist on examining the pagan roots of the festive use of greenery at the winter solstice, including the various forms of Saturnalia, and Celtic and Nordic tree worship.

There is general agreement on the first published report, which dates from 1605 in Strassburg, where people are said to have set up Christmas trees in their parlors. As to the German tradition and its beginnings, legends abound. One holds that Martin Luther, entranced one Christmas Eve by the beauty of a forest scene, cut down a small fir tree, brought it home to his wife and children and put lighted candles on it to recreate what he had seen and to bring alive the beauty of the starry night on which Christ was born.

Another legend concerns St. Boniface, who converted the Germans to Christianity. It is said he interrupted a traditional druidic midwinter feast by cutting down a sacred oak, out of which sprang a young fir tree. The saint then offered the tree to the people, telling them to take such trees into their homes and celebrate there, rather than indulge in woodland revels.

The Christmas tree came to America before it traveled to the rest of Europe, via homesick Hessians who had been employed as mercenaries to fight in the Revolutionary War. But as in Europe, it

did not catch on until the 19th century. Princess Helene of Mecklenberg is said to have introduced the Christmas tree to Paris in 1840, and Prince Albert, the royal consort, brought it to England the next year. Wishing to reproduce the tradition of his native land for his first son, he set up a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. All England soon followed.

The 19th century origins of U.S. Christmas tree mania are uncertain. Some credit a German professor at Harvard named Charles Follen, who began setting up Christmas trees every year for his son at his home in Cambridge, Mass., in 1832. Others credit an Ohio clergyman. In the 1850's Franklin Pierce introduced the first Christmas tree to the White House. In 1891 Benjamin Harrison put up a tree and even suited up as Santa for his grandchildren.

Along about the turn of the century America's towns and cities began putting up trees in their public squares for all the world to see (America's part of it, anyway). In 1909 Pasadena, Calif., decorated a tree on Mount Wilson. Lighted, tinseled and glorious, it thrilled the local citizenry. Two years later, New York City got its own: a 60-foot balsam fir in Madison Square Park.

Today the United States is forested, from sea to shining sea, with Christmas trees. Some are giants, some are the vegetable equivalent of the runt of the litter and all of them — in ways that have more to do with emotions than with aesthetics — are beautiful.

It is now our pleasant duty, 111 years after that first grumpy pronouncement, to declare officially that the Christmas tree is not a passing fad. Nor, if well watered, is it a lifeless corpse — at least not until the end of January.

Spare Public Broadcasting

Americans often hear it said that television is the most powerful method for transmitting ideas since the invention of the written word. But television in its commercial form is often little more than a conduit for violent melodrama and tabloid sensationalism that puts itself forward as "news." Much of the country's most distinguished news, arts and educational programming is produced not by the networks or their cable cousins, but by the Public Broadcasting System. The fruit is free to the citizenry, except for a tiny subsidy that Congress gives the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

It would be foolish, even barbaric, to cripple the C.P.B. Yet that is precisely what many in the incoming Republican Congress would like to do. They need to hold their fire. As the incoming House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, ponders crippling the system, he should bear in mind that more than a million children in his home state of Georgia actually go to school via public television. So do millions of others all over rural America.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is a private, not-for-profit organization that was authorized through the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. The money it receives from the Federal Government goes to public broadcasting stations around the country and to the development of the programs that those stations buy. Government funds make up about 15 percent of its budget, but this small amount forms the vital nucleus of its support and is virtually the only thing that keeps the poorer, rural stations on the air.

Republican hostility toward the Public Broadcasting System is hardly new: Both Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan would have crippled it if Congress had not thwarted them. With the advent of the "culture wars" in the late 1980's, political pressures on the system became dramatically greater.

Two years ago, for example, Senator Bob Dole of Kansas temporarily blocked funds to the C.P.B. on the grounds that public broadcasting programs had "a liberal bias." But all told, Senate Republi-

cans could cite fewer than a dozen hours of "too liberal" programs among 6,000 hours of programs each year. Mr. Dole also charged that the Children's Television Workshop, which produces "Sesame Street," did not deserve Federal dollars. But as this page pointed out at the time, Mr. Dole and his fellow critics were wrong to assert that "Sesame Street" and other children's programs would flourish elsewhere. Only public stations have the latitude to run as many as three or four hours each day of "Sesame Street," uninterrupted by commercials, to reinforce the educational message.

Some in Congress were particularly wrought up about a documentary on gay culture and AIDS made by the openly gay film maker, Marlon Riggs, who recently died of AIDS. But the film was not forced on anyone. About 100 of the system's 350 stations declined to show it. That's the beauty of the system: It reaches out to so diverse an audience that no program could possibly be for everyone. Americans decide locally what they wish to watch.

As the networks have turned away from documentaries and other in-depth programming, public broadcasting has become the principal source of broadcasts in the humanities and sciences. Forthcoming titles offer continued promise. The schedule includes "The American Cinema," 10 one-hour programs about the movies; "Inside the F.B.I.," a four-hour history; a Bill Moyes special, "What Can We Do About Violence?"; "America's War on Poverty," a five-hour report on poverty in the 1980's; "Messages From Moscow," four hours on the cold war from the Kremlin's point of view; "The Human Language," three hours about humans' ability to talk, and "Mykey of the Senses," five hours about sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch.

The enemies of public broadcasting will no doubt preach the gospel of privatization. But the private sector has neither the interest nor the attention span to duplicate PBS's extraordinary work. If public broadcasting, and much of that work we surely go undone.

Editorial Notebook

Concord, Revisited

They are here again, on the big screen, just in time for Christmas. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. In childhood I chose to identify with Jo, but who didn't? Of all the March girls, she was the most spirited, the most contemporary, the bravest. Being the terminally domestic Meg was out of the question. Beth was too good to be true and, besides, she died young. Amy, of course, was impossibly shallow. Still, someone who, in third grade, sometimes stuck a pencil through the bridge of her glasses in a bizarre effort to straighten a slight bump on her nose could not afford to scorn someone who wore a clothespin in hers. Amy's fondness for using big words she could not pronounce was mine, too. And I would have been just as reluctant to give up my breakfast to the Hummels.

"Little Women" showed up under my Christmas tree, as it did under hundreds of thousands of Christmas trees, soon after I learned how to read. A lot of other Alcotts came later, and if a few years ago I bought a pair of bronze-colored shoes that I have never yet worn, it is because they reminded me of some I had read about in "Rose in Bloom." The other Alcotts, however, were recognizably fiction. To me, "Little Women" was fact. But then, that's the way it is with all great novels. Their reality erases the readers.

"Little Women" a great novel? Yes, in the same time-defying sense that "Gone with the Wind" is a great novel. The latter has a protagonist so powerfully drawn as to become one's family. "Little Women" has four

such characters. Scarlett O'Hara and the March sisters do not, ipso facto, make their creators great novelists. But they give their work a shelf life often denied that of other, grander writers.

When a third film version of "Little Women" opened last week I arrived armed with popcorn, diet soda and a handkerchief far too small for the workout it got. I thought I was past crying over Beth's demise, past easy tears over what I recalled as a somewhat picturesque leave-taking. But this time, listening to Beth speak of loneliness and of how she was not afraid, I was suddenly struck by how commonplace was the death of a child in Louisa May Alcott's day and how tragic it is in any day.

I cried when Beth was given her piano, too, less because of her happiness than of the happiness at that moment of those who loved her. But I did not cry when, as the story ended, Jo and Professor Bhaer walked into the sunset — or, rather, into the rainstorm. Jo was supposed to marry Laurie whether Louisa May Alcott liked it or not. Unfortunately Miss Alcott did not, and left generations of young girls in mourning.

There is a freshness to "Little Women," a kind of purity that never rings counterfeit, although Marmee's moral perfection — especially in the new film — can be tiresome. In these pages, modesty is a charm and not a neurosis, civility a strength and not a weakness. Those qualities alone make the book a period piece. But dated? Never.

MARY CANTWELL

How to Tell Health Care From Toothpaste

To the Editor:
"While Congress Remains Silent, Health Care Transforms Itself" (front page, Dec. 18) quotes Kenneth S. Abramowitz, a market analyst, who likens health care to products such as "hotel rooms and toothpaste and automobiles." Calling the growth of health maintenance organizations "the corporatization of health care," Mr. Abramowitz asks, "What's wrong with that?" As his own analogy suggests, a lot.

This corporatization is widely seen as a way to bring market efficiencies to health care. However, besides health care, there is no realm of the economy in which people buy products by paying an insurance premium. There is a good reason for this: an insurance company's primary interest — profit — is best served by minimizing payments to policyholders.

No one would willingly cede the ability to rent the hotel room he or she wants or to buy the car or toothpaste he or she prefers to an insurance company or any third party. To

the extent that health care is a product like any other, the interests of buyers are best served when they can make choices about what they buy and when. But health care is not a product like any other.

Society expects a uniformly high standard of medical care to be available when it is needed. Doctors and hospitals may be criticized for failing to live up to this standard every case, but their efforts to do partly account for the high cost of health care today.

The potential sacrifices of saving money on most products are not equivalent to those of saving medical care. One may regret a lumpy hotel night on a lumpy bed in a lumpy room, but it hardly complicates the risks of undergoing a surgeon's surgery at the hands of a surgeon with no experience in the procedure.

We must not accept analyses in the health care debate that ignore the highly specific challenges involved in providing first-rate medical care.

Douglas G. Cole
Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 20, 1994

Doctors Bear All Risks

To the Editor:
"While Congress Remains Silent, Health Care Transforms Itself" (front page, Dec. 18) misses a salient point. The law holds the physician responsible for decisions made by the managed care company. My greatest fear as a psychiatrist is that a suicidal patient will come to my office and need more visits than the managed care company allows. I can petition the decision, but the company may not allow me to see the patient more frequently.

If patients should then harm themselves or anyone else, I am the one sued, not the managed care company. Contracts between managed care companies and physicians not only absolve the companies of clinical responsibility but also allow them to dismiss from their list of providers doctors who get sued.

Managed care is not effective for patients with chronic or life-threatening illnesses, such as recurrent major depression with suicidal features. The managed care company can limit services to those who need them the most because they have nothing to lose except doctors who are not "cost-effective."

Exposing managed care companies to the legal and financial consequences of their patient management decisions would allow market forces to find effective solutions for even the most challenging cases.

EMILIE ATTWELL BECKER, M.D.
Austin, Tex., Dec. 19, 1994

Medicare's Bad Faith

To the Editor:
Re "While Congress Remains Silent, Health Care Transforms Itself" (front page, Dec. 18):

My former employer, canceling a previous excellent plan, proposed that I and my wife join the company's new health maintenance organization plan. The plan requires going to a primary care physician from its roster, which does not include our physician. The plan has contracted with Medicare, which pays it regularly in advance, relieving Medicare of a lot of paperwork. But no Medicare payment can be made to me.

I think this is an administrative decision by the Medicare authorities that violates the legal intent of Congress in passing Medicare legislation.

WILLIAM F. CAGNEY
Pearl River, N.Y., Dec. 18, 1994

Light Can Cure That Winter Depression

To the Editor:
Your Dec. 20 Science Times Q & A answer about winter light, light therapy and seasonal affective disorder serves, I think, to discourage use of light therapy when it might be fully effective.

With proper dosing of lights (by manipulation of intensity, duration and time of day of exposure), one can obtain complete remissions of winter symptoms in about 75 percent of cases, essentially recapturing the spring-summer state. About 10 percent more show improvement short of complete remission. The advantage of artificial light therapy is that it is available on demand.

It seems misleading to say that what really keeps seasonal affective disorder away is "the change of seasons or moving closer to the Equator." The latitude at which any individual might find relief from seasonal affective disorder varies greatly.

As one example, a move from Scandinavia to New York light do the trick. As another, less fortunate example, a move from New York to San Diego might fail, with recurrence of the winter episode. I have seen both of these outcomes.

Clinical studies show that high



light intensity is not essential to the treatment effect. Computerized simulation of a springtime dawn presented in the bedroom to sleeping patients has resulted in clinical remissions similar to that seen with post-awakening bright light therapy. Herein may lie the naturalistic solution.

MICHAEL TERMAN
Director, Winter Depression Program
N.Y. State Psychiatric Institute
New York, Dec. 21, 1994

Au Pair Programs Are Worth Not Studying

To the Editor:
Your Dec. 19 news article on proposed Federal wage rules for au pairs, or foreign child-care workers, states that the Bill Gustafson-led, the new rules would force his nonprofit organization out of business. To call a nonprofit a business seems a contradiction.

I challenge his statement that the proposed rules would "make a professional child care program out of something that was essentially an exchange program." If so, why do such agencies advertise in the Yellow Pages and elsewhere under "child care" and "nannies"?

Au pair agencies hire European recruiters to round up au pairs to bring to this country for child care, a far cry from the original cultural student exchange permit. They are not students. None of the au pair agencies accept Americans for exchange, and little culture is involved.

It is more appropriately a work permit. As such, the salary should be equal to the United States minimum wage to give Americans a chance to compete. I cannot comprehend why the United States Information Agency is designated to supervise this work program.

SHEILAGH ROTH
Executive Director, English Nanny and Governess School
Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Dec. 20, 1994

Like Japan, We Too Have School Bullies

To the Editor:
"Suicides by Bullied Students Stir Japanese Furor" (news article, Dec. 18) should remind us to take the log out of our own eye before noting the splinter in our neighbor's.

As a pediatrician in a middle-class suburb of Boston, I have noticed an increase in child-to-child injuries in my practice since 1985.

Nobody seemed interested then, but because of increasing concern over violence in our society, I obtained a grant from the Harvard Community Health Foundation in 1991. We documented intentional in-

juries among children, prepared a curriculum for pediatricians to intervene and evaluated our results. Our funds were cut when we were about to expand the project. I have spent much time during the last six months trying to find financing for this project, which addresses bullying in our schools. A child harassed by peers gets distracted and suffers in his or her ability to learn.

The Norwegian psychologist Dan Olweus at the University of Bergen has studied this problem in Scandinavian schools and estimates one in seven children is a bully or a victim.

Your article refers to teachers who see the bullying without intervening to stop it. This has two important aspects. First, the teacher is a bystander who, by not intervening, condones the violence. Second, other pediatricians and I have noticed that schools are more concerned with protecting their reputations than with correcting a situation.

A parallel exists between domestic abuse and bullying in school. The bullying victim/sufferer suffers a premeditated, coercive violence that affects self-esteem; he or she remains silent and socially isolated, sometimes to the point of suicide. The time has come to recognize bullying and school peer violence as a predecessor of the violence in our streets.

LUISA C. STIGOL, M.D.
Dedham, Mass., Dec. 18, 1994

In This Season, American Troops Remain on Duty in Haiti

To the Editor:
My son, a mechanic in the United States Army's 10th Mountain Division in Haiti, called me a Sunday or two ago.

He reported that probably half of the United States forces have left, and the multinational forces have taken over most patrolling and policing. His unit is billeted in tents at the Port-au-Prince airfield, but living conditions are improving.

They have electricity running into the tents; they get three hot meals a day when they are on the airfield and, most important, as a mechanic, he has a "hard stand" to work on instead of the mud he was in.

His impression of the Haitians is that the poor people and the middle class are genuinely glad to see the Americans there. They will come up to the gate of the airfield and just stand and talk to the soldiers for hours at a time. The children run after the soldiers, asking for chocolate, when they are patrolling or

driving through the city, as children seem to do everywhere American soldiers go.

These reports are a relief to me, particularly since my son also mentions that when they leave the security of the airfield they still have on their flack vests and helmets, and they are armed.

He further reports that he has traveled all over the island. He's a wrecker operator and driver, and has been moving around the island recovering and repairing equipment.

On balance, it sounds as if the soldiers are doing O.K. and that the multinational force is taking over somewhat efficiently. It seems hard

to predict the long-term outcome. I write because it appears that the news media, who were instrumental in persuading the President to deploy troops to Haiti and who have now moved on to other things, seem unaware that the soldiers are still in Haiti.

JOSEPH R. BARKLEY
New York, Dec. 19, 1994

Smart Genes?

To the Editor:
"The Curse of Living Within One's Genes" (The Week in Review, Dec. 18) elevates the message of Charles Murray's and Richard J. Herrnstein's "Bell Curve" to the same level as the discovery of a specific fat gene in mice. That discovery is real science, with the description of the gene's existence and mode of action verified by solid experiment.

But the notion that "there is a strong heritable component to intelligence" has as yet no molecular biological basis. It is reprehensible to manipulate what little is known about the inheritance of intelligence to heap scorn on fellow citizens. You might have selected more solid examples of heredity's workings to develop your thesis.

RALPH HEIMER
Philadelphia, Dec. 20, 1994
The writer retired as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Thomas Jefferson University.

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toothpaste

Journal
FRANK RICH

Where Christmas Went

Pop culture is the emotional weather of our country, and it is never more oppressive than at Christmas, when it reaches blizzard force. Thinking back on the Christmas days of my own childhood, I find my recollections, however joyous or sad, inevitably accompanied by a jarring soundtrack not of my own choosing. It's hard to summon up platonic, Truman Capote-esque Christmas memories when Alvin and the Chipmunks are lodged permanently in your brain.

This holiday season pop culture is ruled by one man — a nondescript-looking stand-up comic named Tim Allen. Unlike John Lennon, he may actually rival Jesus' popularity.

It is Mr. Allen's book, "Don't Stand Too Close to a Naked Man," that has usurped the Pope from the top of the best-seller list. It is Mr. Allen's movie "The Santa Clause" that has ruled the nation's box offices, bringing the Santa of "Miracle on 34th Street" to his knees. And it is Mr. Allen's hit television series, "Home Improvement," that wins the Nielsen ratings every week.

Fear not an extended exegesis of the Allen oeuvre here. But I did tune into the month's two Christmas episodes of "Home Improvement," on the theory that TV's reigning sitcom may offer more of a window into the state of the nation than any lofty holiday pronouncements by our leaders of church and state.

The experience was chillier than a dive into the snow, alas. The O. Henry glow of giving that used to seep into "I Love Lucy" and "The Honey-mooners" at Christmas time was nowhere to be found in "Home Improvement," where Mr. Allen plays the host of a local TV show called "Tool Time," dedicated to the hard-sell of hardware.

In between the power-tool pitches and the toilet and proctology jokes, a "Home Improvement" Christmas is an occasion for one-upping the neighbors (in a roof decoration contest), adjudicating the battles of in-laws and coaxing spoiled kids out of their sulks. "Christmas is not about being with people you like," says Mr. Allen to one of his annoying little tykes. "It's about being with your family."

This is the soulless Yuletide spirit sweeping the country as we approach the millennium? The good news is: not entirely. Recently the ad agency BBDO released a survey of TV viewing habits revealing that there is one group of viewers that does not watch "Home Improvement" — African-Americans.

Indeed, this survey reported that black and white viewing habits have diverged almost completely in the past decade. As recently as the mid-1980's, when Bill Cosby could still build a national consensus, 15 of the top-rated 20 shows watched by whites were also among the top 20 watched by blacks; this year only three shows have crossed over, and "Home Improvement" is not one of them. Conversely, the two highest-rated programs in black America, "Living Single" and "Martin," are barely watched by whites; they placed 68th and 79th in the national Nielsen.

Is this another sign of a racially polarized culture? Perhaps. But if the Christmas episodes of "Living Single" and "Martin" are any indication, the real news is how much

The true 'Home Improvement.'

more successfully they and their black characters convey the spirit of what used to be the majority culture than a homogenized mass favorite like "Home Improvement" now does.

Set in cities that are more racially integrated and slightly less air-brushed than Tim Allen's faceless suburbia, these shows are no less silly but are far freer with emotions, seasonal and otherwise. A sparring couple ends up making love right under the Christmas tree; there's talk about holiday spirit as well as tree-trimming; even the gift giving (tickets to "The Nutcracker," not power tools) seems less materialistic and more personal.

Why are these once-commonplace sentiments off-limits in "Home Improvement"? As the pop-culture industry becomes more corporate than ever in this era of mergers and takeovers, blandness metastasizes; there's no percentage in any mass show-biz product taking a stand on anything, even Christmas, that might drive away a single customer. A show settling for only a segment of that mass, by contrast, can still sneak in a human touch, at least until the day it's canceled. If you channel-surf until you spot a black Santa, you may yet find a corny white Christmas entertainment just like the one you used to know.

In America
BOB HERBERT

Santa Claus?

The letter to The New York Times came from Yoshiyuki Miyashita, a third-grader in Kawasaki City, Kanagawa, Japan. Yoshiyuki is a believer in Santa Claus.

"However," he writes, "there are now two opinions in my school. One is there is a Santa Claus. The other is there is no Santa Claus in this world. I was very confused. Please let me know that there is a Santa Claus around us or not."

Reading the letter, I recalled a Christmas Eve in Brooklyn many years ago, and a poor family named Brooks, and a plate of cookies that a little girl left out for Santa. Yoshiyuki may find the story helpful.

Roger Brooks was 11 years old then, and his sister, Kimberly, was 6. As Christmas approached, they had argued over whether there was a Santa Claus. Kimberly had believed fiercely in Santa but Roger was filling her head with doubts. "Believe me," he said, "there is no Santa Claus."

A mystery solved in Brooklyn.

Kimberly covered her ears with her hands. "I'm not listening," she said. "You are just being mean."

Roger laughed and went off to play. As soon as he was out of sight, Kimberly squeezed her eyes tight and said, "Please, please, please, please, let there be a Santa Claus."

Christmas Eve was very cold and early in the morning it began to snow. Ben Brooks, the father of Roger and Kimberly, was trying to make a few dollars selling Christmas trees at a street corner. But his trees were scrawny and lopsided and nobody wanted to buy them.

Mr. Brooks was very worried. He had no money for presents for his family. He had hoped to buy something lovely for his wife, and Roger wanted a bicycle. And Kimberly — well, she just wanted to believe in Santa Claus.

The day dragged on, becoming colder and colder, and the wind blew, and the snow piled up in drifts. Ben Brooks stood beside his trees, worrying and shivering, worrying and shivering.

Meanwhile, in the family's tiny apartment, Louise Brooks was

putting the final decorations on a crooked little tree that her husband had dragged home a few days earlier. Roger was on the telephone bragging to a buddy about the red bicycle his father had promised to buy him. Kimberly was in the kitchen arranging several chocolate chip cookies on a plate.

"These," she said proudly, "are for Santa Claus. I heard he just loves cookies. We'll leave them under the tree for him."

"Can you believe it?" Roger said into the phone. "My sister's putting out cookies for Santa Claus. Isn't that ridiculous?"

Mr. Brooks came home about 7:30 that evening. As he hugged Mrs. Brooks, he whispered, "I don't know what we're going to do. I didn't even sell one tree."

Roger and Kimberly came running into the hall to greet their father. "I can't wait to see my bicycle!" said Roger. "I left a whole plate of cookies for Santa Claus!" said Kimberly.

Mr. Brooks seemed very down. Mrs. Brooks said, "Take your coat off and everybody wash your hands and we'll go into the kitchen for dinner."

At some point during dinner, Mrs. Brooks suddenly looked up, raised her hand and motioned for quiet. "Did you hear something?" she asked.

Everybody said no.

"I'm sure I heard a noise in the living room," said Mrs. Brooks.

The family went into the living room to investigate. Amazingly, the room had been transformed. The lights on the tree were brighter and now they were twinkling. Christmas carols were playing softly on a record player that hadn't been there before. And beneath the crooked little tree, where no presents had been, was a shiny red bicycle for Roger, and a beautiful new doll for Kimberly, and two gift-wrapped packages for Mr. and Mrs. Brooks.

"Wow!" said Roger. "How did you do that?"

"Do what?" said Mr. Brooks. He turned to his wife and said, "Where did you get all of these things?"

"Me?" said Mrs. Brooks.

Everyone was puzzled except Kimberly. "Look! Look!" she said. Santa was here! And she ran to the plate that she had left under the tree. All of the cookies were gone. Only a few scattered crumbs remained.

"I knew it," Kimberly said. "I just knew he loved cookies."



By Madison Smartt Bell

"Will ye come?" Harold's raised voice rang metallic in the space before Bett's crumbling front porch, no proper yard at all but only a hand-span cut through the brush with a swing-blade, maybe.

"Will ye not come?"

The bushes were all frozen now, smoothly gloved in ice. The house rose so suddenly from the undergrowth, he'd blundered upon it before he'd known he was anywhere near. Now icicles drooled from a dangling length of gutter, framing Bett where she stood on the sprung floorboards, hugging herself through a rust-black wool coat, flanked by a gray cat and a rib-wrung redbone hound. Sprigs of white hair shot through holes in her felt hat. She stamped her foot and shook the walking stick she held.

"Ain't going nowhere," she said. "Not with you. Not with nobody."

"You won't last the night then," Harold said. He pointed at the gaping claspboards of the house. "I can see daylight clean through that shack. You'll be froze solid before sunrise."

"Never you mind it," Bett said. "I ain't coming. You better get on."

"Well, that's just fine," Harold said. "I done right to come here, whatever you say — stubborn old witch." He pointed behind him, through the crystalline snarls of brush into the taller trees. "Had to leave my car two miles down on the road — there's parts of that trail a fox couldn't get through. And are you grateful?"

"Well ain't you just a little platter saint," Bett said. "I expect you better get off this hill before dark. They's haints will take after ye, and mountain lions!" she yelled, but his red plaid band had already disappeared among the frozen trees.

The sky was low and thick like cotton, and while she stood on the porch it began to snow, heavily, in fat wet drifting flakes. The house was tucked like a splinter in a cleft of the long ridge, and through a gap in the trees she could see miles down where crows nosed broken hay bales in a snowy field, and beyond the fence a stretch of road. She watched a little while but Harold's car did not appear.

She went inside, the cat slinking after her. The dog came in too and climbed onto a ripped plush sofa, shivered, curled up and went to sleep. Bett threw a stick into the tall cylindrical stove that hulked like Moloch in a corner of the room.

"Fool old man to come bothering around me that way," she said to the cat. "Don't he know I'm too mean to die?"

"You fixed him, didn't you?" the cat said.

Bett turned sharply but the cat was mum, only staring at her with its huge yellow eyes. She shrugged and went into the kitchen, a closet-sized room half falling off the back of the house, and found part of a canned ham and half a can of tomato soup, both frozen. She brought the cans back and set them on the stove top and sat down before the fire, rubbing her hands. The draft coming in above the sofa where the dog lay was considerable.

Madison Smartt Bell is author, most recently of "Save Me, Joe Louis."

"Self-righteous old eejit..." she muttered.

"What did you marry him for?" the cat said. "If he's such a fool."

Bett squinted down. "Who asked you to put your two cents in?" she said. The cat looked back at her boldly, but didn't say a word. Bett threw more wood on the fire and tried the can of soup with her thumb; it had thawed but was not yet warm.

"Fool enough myself in those days, I suspect," she said. "What is it, 50 years gone? And we ain't lived together in 20."

Saving Bett on a winter's night.

"I wouldn't know," the cat said.

"You're talking, you sly devil," Bett said. "That ain't natural."

"It's Christmas," the cat said.

Bett saw it plain this time, the neat movement of the mouth and tongue.

The voice had a pleasant husky rasp.

"Christmas is a week gone by," Bett said. Or was it two? She looked into a dusky corner of the room where stood a cedar limb decked out as Christmas tree with full moons and crescents of gold and silver foil. A farmer and his wife from down the valley had ridden up on horses to bring her that, and the ham and the soup too, and fruitcake. That was two weeks before, or longer.

"Yes, and you ran them off too, didn't you?" the cat said. "Just like you did Harold — shook your stick and cussed and hollered like you do."

"I thought they was the welfare," Bett said, "or some other guvment thing."

"On horseback?" said the cat.

"Bet it'll be a good long while before anybody else tries bringing you some Christmas."

"Like I've done told you," Bett said. "Christmas was back then, not now." Vaguely she pictured the two horses with their nostrils steaming, bay coats bright against the darkness of the trees. It was before the ice storm and the snow.

The dog sat up and yawned extravagantly, jaws shutting with a click. "It's Old Christmas," he said. His voice was rich and cavernous, like an old blues song. "Comes two weeks after, every year. And on Old Christmas Eve, the animals can talk." He scratched himself with his hind foot and turned around and curled and closed his eyes.

"See, Miz All-Wise?" the cat said. "You don't know everything."

"You better be sweet if you want any supper," Bett said, and the cat shut up. The gelid fat had melted on the ham, and she tore pieces of the rubbery pink meat and ate some and gave some to the cat; the dog came over too to take his share. Bett wrapped her hand in a rag to hold the

soup can, and sat back sipping cautiously. Now it was full dark in the room, but for the sherry cobweb glow, along the many chinks and fissures in the whitened old iron of the stove. Bett finished the soup and ate shreds of ham till she was content.

She dozed before the fire. Cold woke her finally, sharp on the bone. She threw another stick in the stove, the last in the house, and paced to warm herself, stepping on the cat's tail.

"Strike a light, why don't you?" the cat hissed. Ignoring this, Bett clambered onto the sofa to pili a blanket over the worst of the cracks in the wall. The dog yelped and scooted out from under her. She opened the stove door; the fire had died away to coals and she had to blow hard to get the new stick caught.

Wrapping her coat more tightly around her she went out. The snow had stopped, but it was inches deep all over the ground, lapping over the tops of her shoes. She brushed snow off the woodpile and took hold of a chunk but it would not come. The ice storm had glazed all the wood together solid as cement. She tugged and struggled until a rotten knot broke off in her hand and she sat down backward in the snow.

The sky had cleared and up above the moon hung sickle-shaped, a single bright star cupped in the survey of its lower horn. The wind came up and all the ice-sheathed limbs of the trees shivered and rang together like dull chimes. Bett felt cold kill through herself, then warm again.

"Get up," the dog bayed to her. "Get up or you'll freeze on that cold ground."

Painfully, Bett turned her head. The dog's head hung out the door and the cat paced solemnly along the porch rail, tail hooked over its back.

"Too smart to take that ride to town, weren't you?" the cat said.

"Do you think I want to live in a little box down there?" Bett snapped. "I'd sooner freeze. He'd have shoved me back in that nursing home anyhow."

"Doubt they'd have you back," the dog said, and the cat added, "You cuss too much."

Bett rolled onto her hands and knees and crawled in the snow, groping for her walking stick, but she could not find it. Down in the valley a farm dog was caroling some sad tune. . . . When she reached the porch she was able to pull herself up by the rail and climb. As she crossed the rickety boards an idea struck her and she stopped and pulled loose a

plank and then another.

The dry-rotted boards broke easily to stove length, and threw out a pleasant wave of heat when she pushed them in. Cat and dog crouched behind her, eyes shining in the fire-glow.

"This strikes me as a losing proposition in the long run," the dog said. "You don't plan on burning the

whole house down, do you?" Bett grinned at him, pushed in more plank scraps. Flame shot cheerfully up the stovepipe.

"Don't overdo it," the cat warned. "That old iron won't take too much."

Bett pushed herself up and grabbed a splintery ladder-back chair and swung it hard against the kitchen door frame. The house thundered as she kept on swinging. At last the chair shattered into pieces and she moved to put them on the fire, but the knocking had not stopped.

"Get the door, why don't you?" said the dog, but the door opened of itself and in walked an enormous man, wearing felt boots and a long leather coat, and an astrakhan hat. His hair was black and glossy and his mustache had been waxed to points that thrust out of the black bush of his beard.

"Take a seat," Bett said, pointing to the chair that remained by the stove. The stranger sank into it with a creak and leaned forward on his knees.

"They's ham on the stove if you want it," Bett said. "It may have done dried out by now. They might be some fruitcake."

"Thank you," the stranger said. His voice had a foreign sound. "I've eaten."

"Where did you come from?" Bett asked him.

"Russia," the stranger said.

"That's a long way," Bett said, but the stranger didn't respond to this sally. He seemed to study a place on the stove wall where the crack lines all came together in a wedge. Then he stood up, the floorboards whining under his boots.

"It's time to go."

"Go where?" Bett said. "Who with?" Her surliness returned. "I bet you're a godless Communist, probably." She cursed him awhile in the terms that had got her expelled from the nursing home some months before. But the stranger only kept looking at her with an expression of profound tranquility. When she was done he turned slowly and walked out the door, coat tails floating round his heels.

Bett looked for the cat and the dog, but they were gone too. Inside the walls was a steady rustle and scurry and she began to hear the voices of mice whispering. She stepped through the doorway, not noticing the red-hot wedge of iron that detached itself from the stove and fell behind it.

The huge black sleigh shone like water in the moonlight, and Bett drew in her breath. The Russian, stood at the head of the team, making some adjustment to the harness. When he stepped aside, Bett saw the lead beast turn its head and look at her with a large liquid eye. Somehow she had come near enough to touch its velvet antlers, but she did not touch.

"Do I still get to go with you?" she said in a small voice. The Russian's teeth shone whitely in his beard. He swung her up as lightly as a doll and she landed nestled in sable cloaks that quickly made her snug — there were even hot bricks ready beneath the furs. The Russian mounted to the driver's box. The leather stretched across his back as he leaned forward and clucked to the team. The movement of the runners was so light across the snow she doubted that they touched the ground at all. Once she peered over the side for a last glimpse of the house, but no house was there in the ridge's notch, only a diamond-bright blaze, like a fallen star.

FILM

When Mere Images Fail, Words Come to the Rescue

By CHRISTOPHER MILLER

In many films of the past year, audiences seem to be hearing voices. Not just the voices of the characters talking to one another but the voices of narrators talking directly to the audience: speaking over events as they happen, explaining what transpired before or foretelling what is to come.

A man sits at a bus stop and replays highlights of his life story in "Forrest Gump." A reporter tells a human-interest story about a policeman and a waitress in "It Could Happen to You." An ex-con spins the tale of a prisoner's escape in "The Shawshank Redemption." A pale figure explains how he got his night job in "Interview With the Vampire."

And in "Legends of the Fall," which opens today, a Cree Indian (played by Gordon Tootoosis) begins the film with a mystical chant in his native tongue, before the narration turns to an English simulcast. "Some people hear their own inner voices with great clearness," he says, unfolding a tale that interweaves the voice-over readings of letters among members of the Ludlow family as they drift apart against the backdrop of World War I and Prohibition.

If so many recent films use voice-over narration, a device as old as talkies themselves, that may be partly because so many films are based on books with vivid inner voices — and a lot to explain. Over the years, plenty of books have been turned into voice-over movies, with

varying success, from "Wuthering Heights" (1939) to Martin Scorsese's adaptation of Edith Wharton's "Age of Innocence" (with a voice-over from Joanne Woodward) to "Little Women," which opened Wednesday with Winona Ryder, as Jo, narrating.

The director Edward Zwick complained about the difficulty of trying to encompass the long time span and sprawling itinerary in the novella of "Legends of the Fall," says Jim Harrison, the author. The movie takes its main character, Tristan (Brad Pitt), from Montana to France, then back home to the West and on an ocean voyage reminiscent of the one in "Moby-Dick."

"I told Ed, 'I didn't write the story for you guys; I wrote it for me,'" Mr. Harrison says, admitting that he had tried three screen adaptations of his own. Voice-overs, he adds, were the "only way to make certain bridges in the movie."

Some purists might argue that any form of voice-over is a crutch, a cheap way of smuggling in plot details. Films, the classic argument goes, should show, not tell; they have so many visual and dramatic resources that they shouldn't try to be like books. Frank Darabont, who adapted "The Shawshank Redemption" from the Stephen King novella "Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption," admits to struggling with this. It was seeing a film by Mr. Scorsese that solved the problem. "I was watching 'Goodfellas' on cable one weekend," Mr. Darabont says, "and realized that Ray Liotta's nar-



Author Winona Ryder appears as Jo in "Little Women" and narrates the story, which is based on the classic novel.



Witness Brad Pitt is Tristan, the focus of "Legends of the Fall," but the film is narrated by an all-knowing Cree Indian.

ration was so indelible that I couldn't imagine the movie without it."

The voice of the first-person narrator in Mr. King's novella impressed Mr. Darabont in the same way. "It was so present to me," he says, "that I had to put it into the movie." From the film's opening, the narrator (Morgan Freeman) gives the viewer the sense of settling down with a good book, and tells how a fellow convict (Tim Robbins) once — in a way — brought Rita Hayworth to prison. Mr. Darabont, a longtime fan of Mr. King's fiction, particularly admires the way the writer "will drop something into your ear and explain it much later."

In Mr. Darabont's opinion, it wasn't simply the words that left a distinctive mark on his film; it was also the sound of the narrator's voice. "We were very lucky to have Morgan Freeman," he says. "There is so much dignity and warmth." Indeed, Mr. Freeman's mellow baritone has a way of guiding the viewer through a bleak prison world. "If you can't imagine a film without the voice-over, then it's been used well," Mr. Darabont says.

On the other hand, Mr. Darabont continues, "if the voice-over isn't integral to the story, then it's just a Band-Aid." In 1990, movie audiences

got the chance to decide whether a voice-over was necessary when Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner" was shown without the Harrison Ford narration that had been attached to the film in 1982. To Mr. Darabont and many others, the voice-over had only intruded on the film's sense of post-apocalyptic loneliness.

The style of the narration in "Blade Runner" paid homage to film noir of the 40's and 50's, when the use of voice-overs arguably reached its peak. Back then, the films sounded like the hard-boiled novels from which they often sprang; and on the whole, the films' narrators were not nearly as likable as this year's crop.

One of the most famous was not even alive. At the beginning of the film "Sunset Boulevard" (1950), the narrator, the washed-up screenwriter Joe Gillis (William Holden), floats dead in a swimming pool. We know we are in for a twisted tale when the pained montage cuts to rippling silhouettes of cops and reporters peering into the pool.

A similarly disembodied voice was heard in "Reversal of Fortune" (1990) when Sunny von Bulow (Glenn Close) narrates from her hospital bed. She knows what put her into a coma but can't say. Such a

device plays with our desire for omniscience in a narrator.

While Walter Neff (Fred MacMurray) is not dead at the beginning of "Double Indemnity" (1944), he's fast on his way to being so. In a Dictaphone confession to his boss, Neff tells how he failed to get the girl, get the money and achieve inner wholeness. What he did achieve was a bullet in the gut, but not until the end do we realize that all this time he has been bleeding through his shirt.

Fifty years later, "Interview With the Vampire" uses a similar confessional technique, with Louis (Mr. Pitt) telling his story to an over-curious writer (Christian Slater) armed with a tape recorder. Unlike Walter Neff, though, Louis has all the time in the world to talk. He's not dying; he's undead.

The recent "Cobb" also uses a voice-over interview to examine a difficult character. Here the irascible title character (Tommy Lee Jones) tells his life story to his biographer (Robert Wuhl). The most famous interview film of all — with the most inscrutable subject — is, of course, "Citizen Kane" (1941). But instead of getting at Kane directly, Orson Welles spliced together a newsreel, five different narrators and the journalist who interviews

them all. "Immortal Beloved," the new Beethoven film, uses a similar method as Beethoven's biographer and three women discuss the great man in voice-over after his death.

But for the most part, films since "Citizen Kane" have avoided such a complex web of voice-overs. Perhaps the year's most direct and uncomplicated voice-over is in "Forrest Gump." Forrest, with an I.Q. of 75, makes an unusual narrator, since the scenes the audience sees are far more complex than his language could possibly convey. As his voice-over trails off, and the flashbacks begin, people may honestly wonder what Gump is actually saying to the person sitting on the bench. How, for instance, does he describe his sexual initiation? But, of course, without Gump's narration, watching the film would be like sitting through a slide show of a stranger's vacation.

Whether it is Gump at a bus stop or Joe Gillis floating in Norma Desmond's pool, narrators insist that they are presenting real testimony. As Walt Whitman put it, "I am the man, I suffered, I was there."

Christopher Miller is a teaching fellow in English literature at Harvard University.



Self Tom Hanks, as the main character in "Forrest Gump," sits on a park bench and tells his story — but what exactly is he saying?

A Not So Little Small Film

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

It has been three years since Robert Benton's last movie opened, a big movie with big stars called "Billy Bathgate," which dropped with a thud. Today, he is coming back with another film with big stars, "Nobody's Fool."

And how does he size this one? "I call it a small movie because I'm nervous about calling it a big movie," said Mr. Benton, a thoughtful and meticulous speaker. "It's not, on the surface of things, what many people perceive as a commercial film."

But the movie, shot on a budget of less than \$20 million, is provoking interest because it allows Paul Newman, who just received the New York Film Critics Award for his performance, to combine those no-account losers he played in "Hud" and "Cool Hand Luke" back in the 60's into a good-looking older coot capable of growth. It was also one of the last two films in which Jessica Tandy appeared. And it brings Mr. Benton, 62, back into prominence as a writer and director.

In hindsight, it seems almost logical how Mr. Benton's rather checkered, undeniably brilliant career led to this point. He failed in his ambition to be a painter, became one of the smart-aleck Esquire editors who dreamed up the Dubious Achievement Awards and turned to screenwriting because an acquaintance had gotten \$25,000 for a screenplay written for Doris Day, more money than Mr. Benton had ever dreamed of.

With David Newman, he wrote the screenplay for "Bonnie and Clyde" in 1967, and went on to pal around with François Truffaut, Jean-Luc Godard and the other gods of cinema's New Wave. From the beginning, he positioned himself as an outsider. Bonnie and Clyde Barrow, for instance, were discovered in a footnote in a biography of John Dillinger that said, "Not only were they outlaws, they were outcasts."

For more than a year in the early 1970's Mr. Benton tried futilely to write a comedy, based on the 1913 invasion of Mexico, for Paul Newman, who wanted to direct it. It never materialized, though Mr. Newman claims not to have given up on the project.

Mr. Benton's own directing credits include "Bad Company" in 1972; "The Late Show" in 1977; "Kramer vs. Kramer" in 1979, for which he won Academy Awards for best director and best screenplay; "Still of the Night" in 1982; "Places in the Heart" in 1984, and "Nadine" in 1987.

Between these films, there were

long periods of incubation, to put it kindly. For example, after "Billy Bathgate," he spent nearly two years working on a screenplay for Disney based on "War in the Val d'Orica," the memoir of a woman named Iris Origo who lived in Tuscany during World War II. After showing his script to three readers he trusted, he gave up the whole enterprise.

"I found that my voice is American and that I cannot write Europeans without making them caricatures," said Mr. Benton, who is a native of Waxahatchie, Tex. "Maybe someday I'll be able to."



Paul Newman

"Nobody's Fool" could hardly be more American. It is a small-town fable based on the acclaimed 1993 novel of the same title by Richard Russo. It tells the story of Sully, a 60-year-old part-time construction worker and local character from upstate New York who years ago walked out on his wife and son. Sully, played by Mr. Newman, bounces harmlessly through life's relationships, including his bantering friendship with Miss Beryl (Ms. Tandy), who long ago was his eighth-grade teacher. Events allow Sully to become acquainted with the son and grandson he has never really known.

"Newman's character changes by five degrees in the movie," said Scott Rudin, who produced the movie with Arlene Donovan. "Because of the delicacy with which the story is told, there has tremendous impact."

The picture's emotional focus comes partly from Mr. Benton's own thoughts about his relationships, particularly that with his son, John, a 28-year-old painter and gallery director. He remembers, for example,

when his son stopped holding his hand. "The moment they stop, they stop forever," he said.

It is against this sharp memory that he measures the awkward reuniting of Sully and his son, Peter, played by Dylan Walsh. He recalls a scene in which the son walks his father to jail as "the ideal father-son scene."

Like Mr. Benton's two most successful directing efforts, "Kramer vs. Kramer" and "Places in the Heart," the new film emphasizes the unrolling of emotions. "It's very hard to say what this movie is about, on a certain level," Mr. Benton said. "It's about how you can't, finally, avoid love. And I'm not sure quite what I mean by love."

Actors say they most value Mr. Benton's ability to draw forth believable emotions in both players and the audience.

"Of all the directors I've ever worked for, Benton is extremely sensitive and intuitive," said Sally Field, who won an Academy Award for best actress in "Places in the Heart." "He connects to the most minute things, the slight movement of hands."

But those who have worked with him say he is far from dictatorial, allowing actors immense flexibility. "He allows things to develop," Mr. Newman said. "He just eavesdrops." The director, for his part, insists that good directing is "very little directing and good casting." He said that without Mr. Newman he could not have made the picture he wanted. "I think Brando would have been terrific," he said, "but I wouldn't have known how to do it with Brando."

One of his principal tools in developing characters is conversation. Mr. Benton said he had lunch with Mr. Newman three times a week in his trailer during the filming of the movie last winter. Mr. Newman made salad, and they endlessly discussed the character of Sully. "It was very close to something in him that he drew on," Mr. Benton said of Mr. Newman's portrayal. "He has a real sympathy for people who get neglected."

There were also some novel approaches. For example, one day early in rehearsals Mr. Benton had Mr. Newman and Melanie Griffith, who plays Sully's almost romantic interest, switch roles. Despite Ms. Griffith's beauty and sexuality, Mr. Benton had decided that her part was essentially that of one of the guys. "It turned out they were interchangeable," Mr. Benton said. "She was like Jean Arthur in 'Only Angels Have Wings.'"

JOY TO THE WORLD

By RANDOLPH ROSS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

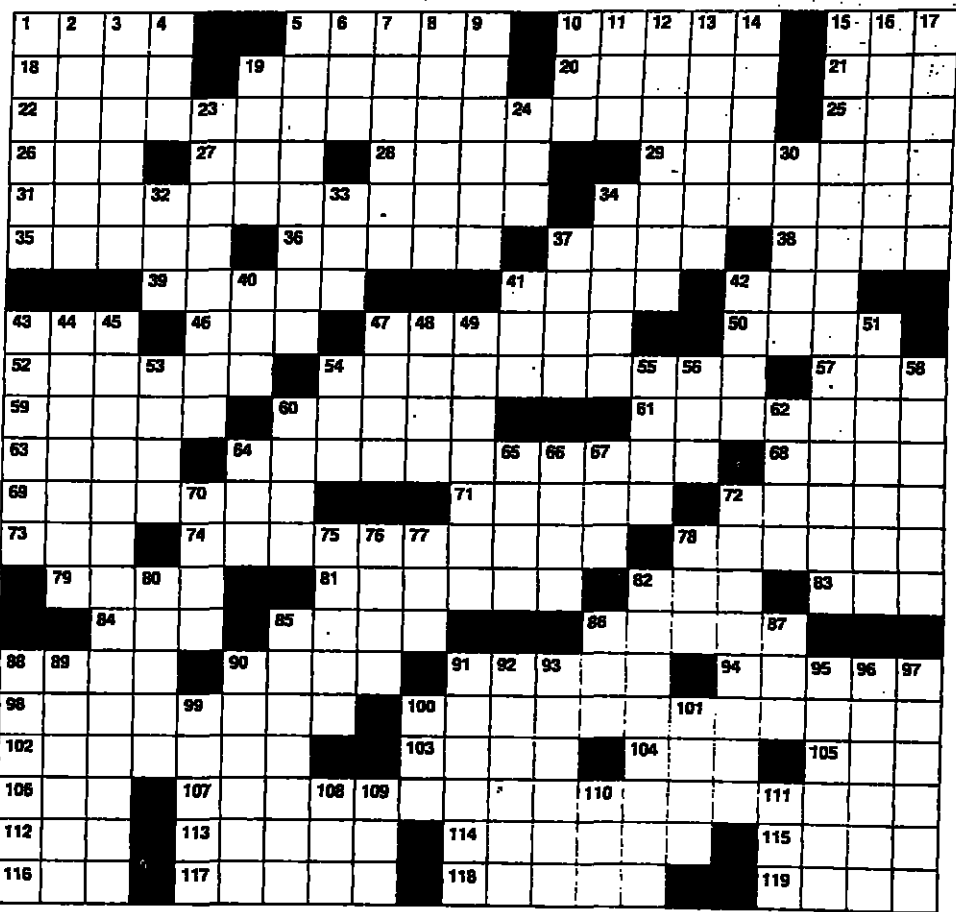
ACROSS

- 1 Her Majesty: Abbr.
- 5 Euripides tragedy
- 10 Southwestern sights
- 15 Wharton deg.
- 18 Feet
- 19 Anemic in the extreme
- 20 Double duty?
- 21 Auction conclusion
- 22 Season's greetings from Athens
- 25 Jet affliction
- 26 Oklahoma Indian
- 27 — bodkins
- 28 Paisley and Fleming
- 29 Subscribe to
- 31 Season's greetings from Seoul
- 34 Controversial coat material
- 35 "Steppenwolf" author
- 36 Game show group
- 37 Mideast carrier
- 38 Wear well
- 39 Store money
- 41 Go out with a bang
- 42 Actor Mineo
- 43 Uncle of note
- 46 Oklahoma city
- 47 Provide with information
- 50 Mother of Horus
- 52 Denton of "Our Miss Brooks"

- 54 Season's greetings from Rome
- 57 Start for plop or plunk
- 59 Some steak orders
- 60 — Rock (Australian tourist site)
- 61 Major-league
- 63 Nagy of Hungary
- 64 Season's greetings from Oslo
- 68 "Lucky Jim" author
- 69 Kind of fax
- 71 Desk-box words
- 72 Orange container
- 73 Jerk
- 74 Season's greetings from Paris
- 78 Overcharged
- 79 Half a train toot
- 81 Rules
- 82 — Friday
- 83 Smile center
- 84 Hwy.
- 85 Gerard and Hodges
- 86 Lunchtimes
- 88 Fort —, Ontario
- 90 Diving position
- 91 "Inside the Third Reich" writer
- 94 First of a Roman trio
- 98 The other woman from Oahu
- 100 Season's greetings from Madrid
- 102 Marble

DOWN

- 1 "Mayor" author
- 2 Have no taste for
- 3 Nome's domes
- 4 Eva's half sister?
- 5 Kangaroo pouches
- 6 Biblical judge
- 7 Create wardrobes
- 8 What's left
- 9 Without a key
- 10 "No —" (menu line)
- 11 Sorbonne summer
- 12 Ruy
- 13 Treat, as glass
- 14 Have car trouble
- 15 Season's greetings from Oahu
- 16 MTV bad boy
- 17 Silver



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PIA PRESTO ASOF SAUORI
 INN RESTON NAU INTRUST
 THE COMPUTER IS INCREDIBLY
 TAMARIND AIDS LOEW LAP
 SLITVA SAIGS BARN GUANO
 FAIRACCUATE AND STUPID
 AGHAST
 OPTIS EARP JET SALTAWAY
 LEOCHERNE ANOTHERS ALLEDA
 LORENE MANHUNGBELLEVADLY
 INQUIRY CHIRON OWLET
 EYESHOW ENERO LOGROSL
 SLOWLY CHARGE RANTIO HOUSEA
 NUBRON CHARTERS SULLIVANT
 OVERTAKE TED LUCASE CRTS
 KID TWA REIST
 TIME MARRIAGE OF THE THOIS
 SHORE BERRY TPKS ODOES
 NEW FUMY SUE SAILINTO
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Why your child should decide how much to eat

PARENTING
SALLY SQUIRES

BRIBING, threatening or rewarding children to become members of the "clean-plate club" may set them up for a lifetime of overeating and obesity.

So finds a study by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign researchers, who examined how well a group of pre-schoolers were able to regulate their food intake.

The study found that parents who were overly authoritative about food handicapped their children by interfering with their ability to regulate their eating.

Published in the journal *Pediatrics*, the study involved 77 children aged three to five. During one phase, children were given an appealing pre-lunch drink that contained 150 calories, most of it from sugar and starch.

In another phase, children received a similar drink, but sweetened with low-calorie aspartame.

Shortly after consuming their drinks, children in both phases received trays containing familiar child-friendly foods, such as applesauce, hot dogs, carrot sticks, milk and cookies. They were allowed to eat as much of any food and in any order they wanted.

Youngsters were scored on how much they ate after consuming the drinks. A child who is

proficient at regulating food intake will eat fewer calories at lunch after drinking the sugar-containing drink. About two-thirds of the children were able to compensate by consuming less food.

Not surprisingly, "kids who were heavier and had a higher body fat had a lower score, suggesting that they did not regulate food intake as well as the others," said Susan L. Johnson, who conducted the study as part of her doctoral dissertation at the University of Illinois.

Problems with food regulation were most pronounced for girls, said Johnson, who coauthored the study with Leann L. Birch, professor of human development and studies at Pennsylvania State University. "Boys showed about 20 percent better food regulation than did girls," she said.

By ages three to five, girls were less able to regulate their food intake than were boys.

"The big question is why?" Johnson said. "What we suppose is happening is that we are a lot more attentive to how our girls look and how much they are eating compared with boys. We want our children to grow up to be big boys and shapely girls." (The Washington Post)



Membership in the 'clean-plate club' may be a ticket to overweight.

(Lisa Pliskow)

Mandela's dirty inheritance

EARTHLY CONCERNS
DYORA BEN SHAUL

WHEN Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa he inherited some of the world's worst environmental problems.

This is the conclusion reached by Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC), which was commissioned to assess the environmental situation in the country.

Six South African specialists and six experts from other countries worked together for almost a year to prepare the report that was recently presented to the South African government.

According to the IDRC, many of the most pressing problems stem from the former apartheid system, which led to 80 percent of the population being crowded into the so-called townships created for the black people. These townships comprised only 13 percent of the area of the country, and the drastic overcrowding resulted in the total degradation of the environment. Today these areas are virtually deforested and seriously eroded, and the soil is on the borderline of being nonarable.

In addition, blacks who moved into the cities were classed as temporary residents. No effort was made to provide infrastructure in the slums into which they moved.

Today these areas are overflowing with people who have no access to sanitary facilities or

clean water, and in some places the teeming settlements pose a threat to the entire water system of the area.

Bad farming practices have led to the loss of some 400 million tons of topsoil a year over more than a decade. This is rapidly causing soil depletion with the attendant lowering of crop success.

The IDRC team found that most factories are using outdated equipment and creating undue air and water pollution. Power plants are almost all coal burning and lack proper smokestacks and pollution-preventing scrubbers.

Repairing the damage, and preventing further deterioration, could challenge the South African authorities for generations to come.

The white farmers are set in the ways handed down to them by their forefathers and are slow to accept change, and the black farmers are equally reluctant to see the advantage of new agricultural techniques.

As for industry, marginal profits and a lack of cash flow caused by former international sanctions have placed investment in environment-protection systems almost beyond financial reach.

On top of all that, while the white citizens seem to see conservation as a matter of wildlife reservations, the blacks see conservation as simply another way of forcing them off their land.

When adoption is not an open-and-shut case

LAW REPORT

ASHER FELIX LANDAU

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a Court of Civil Appeals, before Justices Gavriel Bach, Tova Strassberg-Cohen and Zvi Tal, in the matter of the Attorney-General, appellant, versus A.B., respondent (C.A. 4616/94).

ON June 30, 1991, the Beersheba District Court declared A.B.'s nine-year-old son adoptable, on the ground of her inability to bring him up. The child's father was not in the country and did not appear.

She appealed to the Supreme Court. She also requested that, if the order declaring the child adoptable was confirmed, the court order an "open" adoption, that is, that her relationship with her son would be allowed to continue. This issue had not been raised in the District Court.

The Supreme Court confirmed the order as to the child being adoptable, but the issue of an "open" adoption was referred to the District Court which would deal with the second stage of the adoption procedure: the issue of an adoption order. The court also ruled that, in so doing, the District Court would hear evidence on the mother's behalf and could also hear the opinions of experts.

The Attorney-General then requested the Supreme Court to clarify its ruling. He pointed out that the only parties in the application for an adoption order were his representative and the prospective adoptive parents; the Law forbade any contact between the adoptive and the natural parents, and section 34 imposed secrecy as to the former's identity.

He also suggested that the question of an "open" adoption be dealt with at a separate hearing before a different judge from the one who would hear the adoption application. The only parties would be his representative and the mother, the adoptive parents' views being presented by a social welfare officer.

THE ADOPTION Law of 1981 lays down a procedure in two stages. Section 13, dealing with the first stage, provides that, "in the absence of a parent's consent, a court may, on the application of the Attorney-General or his representative, declare a child adoptable" if certain conditions are fulfilled.

Section 14 obliges the court, in the first stage, to give a parent or guardian "a suitable opportunity to have his arguments heard and to present his evidence."

The second stage is the issue of an adoption order under section 1 of the Law. Under section 6, "A court shall not make an adoption order unless the adoptee has lived in the adopter's household for at least six months prior to the making of the order...."

Under section 16 of the Law, "the adoption creates the same duties and rights between the adopter and the adoptee as exist between parents and their children and confers upon the adopter, in respect of the adoptee, the same powers as parents have in respect of their children; it terminates the duties and rights between the adoptee and his parents and other relatives and the powers they have in his respect; however (1) the court may restrict the said effects in the adoption order...."

Section 34 of the Law makes the unauthorized disclosure of the name or identity of any party involved, or the contents of any relevant documents, a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment.

THE SUPREME Court ruled in its clarification that the state was to raise the issue of the "open" adoption before the District Court dealing with the grant of an adoption order. There was some difficulty in finding adoptive parents, and an application for an adoption order was lodged with the District Court on February 14, 1993.

On April 29, 1993, the mother requested that court to grant an "open" adoption order, and to allow the child to be examined by an expert on her behalf with a view to making an "open" adoption order.

The court allowed the second request in the child's interest, particularly in view of the long period that had elapsed since the court declared him adoptable. However, it refused to allow the mother, or any one else on her behalf, to appear, since that would frustrate the basic rule for-

bidding the biological parents to know the identity of the adoptive parents. The Attorney-General then appealed to the Supreme Court against that decision.

JUSTICE BACH delivered the first judgment of the court. Counsel for the Attorney-General, he said, had submitted that once the child had been declared adoptable, his parents enjoyed no special status in any subsequent proceedings; they were in the same position as anyone else. Therefore the mother had no right to participate in the present proceedings, let alone present evidence including expert opinions.

Counsel had relied, he said, on section 16 above, and on rules 269, 284, and 294 of the Civil Procedure Rules of 1984. However, section 16 referred to the situation after the final adoption order, and rules 284 and 294 referred only to formal matters.

Under section 15(a) of the Law, he continued, "Where a parent consents to a child being adopted, or the court declares the child adoptable, and no guardian has been appointed for the child, the rights, duties, and powers of the parents in respect of the child shall, until the court decides otherwise, vest in a welfare officer... as if he had been appointed guardian of the child instead of the parent."

It was difficult, he said, to conceive of a parent's right to request an "open" adoption, which would ensure his being able to continue seeing his child, being vested in a welfare officer. That official could certainly not present the parent's case completely and convincingly.

More to the point was rule 294 which provided "(a) The court shall not restrict the results of the adoption without hearing the Attorney-General, the adopter, and the adoptee's guardian-ad-litem (representing the adoptee in the case). (b) The court shall not or-

der the continuation of an obligation or power between the adoptee and a parent or relative without hearing the parent or relative."

It was obvious, he said, that the regulation applied, as a rule, to the adoptee's parents, to whom rule 294(b) gave a specific right to be heard regarding the continuation of their contact with their child.

However, Justice Bach continued, whatever the formal procedural position might be, once the child had been declared adoptable, the question whether the adoption was to be "open" or not, which had not yet been investigated, was to be dealt with by the court before it made its final decision. It was unreasonable that the child's mother should not be enabled to present her case for the right to continue seeing her child. Hearing only the Attorney-General - whose negative attitude to an "open" adoption was known from the very beginning in the present instance - would certainly not be just.

It was true that every effort was to be made to prevent the mother meeting the adoptive parents, and also to avoid the child being subjected to a number of examinations by experts.

Justice Bach proposed, therefore, that the District Court first hear the mother and her counsel, and the Attorney-General's representative, on the question of an "open" adoption. It could also hear evidence if it saw fit, and the parties' summations.

Even if the mother were not a "party" (and he was not convinced of that), she could be heard as a relevant witness.

He also held that it was not desirable for a number of experts to be involved, and suggested that the court itself appoint an expert.

After deciding the question of the type of adoption, the court would then convene again, at an-

other time, to give its final decision after hearing the adoptive parents and the Attorney-General.

He added that there was no reason why the same judge should not hear the two applications.

Justice Bach proposed, therefore, that the appeal be allowed as laid down in the above reasons.

JUSTICE Strassberg-Cohen concurred. She analyzed in some detail the advantages and disadvantages in the two approaches before the court.

On the one hand, there was no doubt that the question of an "open" adoption could be raised at the first stage. The parents

could then have their full say, and no question would arise of their being deprived of their rights.

On the other hand, allowing them to intervene at the second stage involved obvious risks. For one thing - and she also gave other examples - potential adoptive parents, in whose home the child had lived for at least six months, could change their minds if there was a risk of the natural parents continuing to have contact with their child. There was also the risk of their identity being exposed.

Indeed, the Adoption Law of 1981 provided for the two stages, introducing a change in the earlier Law of 1960. Moreover, the current literature indicated that the conception of "open" adoptions enjoyed some support.

She agreed with the Attorney-General that the proper stage for dealing with the "open" adoption question was the first and not the

second. At the same time there could be exceptions, and she accepted Justice Bach's solution to the problem in the present case.

She added that the sensitive issue of restricting an adoption order, including an "open" adoption, should be regulated by the legislature in laying down clearly the stage and manner of dealing with it, including the procedures and the standing of the natural parents.

JUSTICE TAL agreed with Justice Bach and the comments of Justice Strassberg-Cohen.

IN THE result, the appeal was allowed as laid down by Justice Bach.

Eilat Ziskind, senior assistant state attorney, appeared for the Attorney-General, and Philip Marcus appeared for the mother.

The judgments were given on December 5, 1994.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1994

Central bank leaves
interest rates alone

INTEREST rates will remain unchanged next month at 17 percent, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

Despite last month's 1.3% jump in the Consumer Price Index, the central bank decided to leave the rates alone following strong pressure by the Treasury and the business sector to cut them.

Asked whether he would reduce interest rates following a moderate CPI increase, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said "we don't work on the basis of a single index. The goal is for us to be convinced that inflation has come down to the target levels set by the government and the Bank of Israel, of between 8% and 11%."

In addition, Frenkel wants to see whether the government will reduce its expenditures and whether its package deal with the private sector and the workers aimed at lowering labor costs will come to fruition.

However, he emphasized that the central bank's monetary policy is not tied in any way to the package deal.

The central bank's sharp inter-

JOSE ROSENFELD

est hikes since September — three 1.5 percentage point increases in four months — caused Treasury Director-General Aharon Fogel to warn last week that unless the rates are cut immediately, the economy will be heading toward a recession.

Bank of Israel spokesman Ohad Bar-Efrat said yesterday that the central bank did not change rates because they are at the appropriate level to help bring back the economy down to the inflation targets set by the government.

The central bank also announced that next month it will issue four weekly tenders of NIS 5 billion each, instead of NIS 6b. currently. It will also reduce the weekly tenders to the public to NIS 450 million from NIS 500m. this month, for credit over a four-week period.

As of January, the Bank of Israel will start injecting cash in the economy by means of buying publicly-held, long-term bonds.

Up until this year, the central bank supplied enough money to the economy by means of its

tenders to commercial banks. Failure to provide enough cash to accommodate for economic growth and inflation would result in higher interest rates.

The central bank will announce its intent to buy bonds from the public two weeks in advance. The day before purchasing the bonds, following the closing of the stock market, the Bank of Israel will publicize the series of bonds and maximal amounts it is interested in buying.

Banks and other stock market members will be allowed to make three sell orders for each bond series.

The Bank of Israel will only intervene in the long-term bond market up to once a month and, at first, in a very limited manner.

Given the limits and the fact that the central bank can only buy the bonds, economists said the changes will not affect long-term interest rates, which have not fluctuated as significantly as short-term rates in the past two years.

The new policy allows the central bank to enlarge the permanent supply of money from long-term savings.

Union Bank names new GM

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi UK general manager David Granot will be the next general manager of Union Bank, the bank's board of directors decided yesterday.

Granot will take over from Jacob Raif immediately after he ends his tenure with Bank Leumi in England.

Granot, who has been Leumi UK's general manager for the

past four years, previously headed the bank's capital market and financial services division.

Before joining Leumi, Granot held a number of senior positions at the Finance Ministry.

Raif was appointed managing director of Union Bank in June 1993, immediately after the

Shlomo Eliyahu group bought 60 percent of it from Bank Leumi and the government.

Approximately one year ago, Raif informed the board of his decision to resign and move into private business.

In an attempt to find a replacement, Union's owners negotiated

with several bankers, including United Mizrahi Bank general manager David Blumberg.

Raif's resignation is reportedly connected with ongoing disputes with Union's owners on issues related to the bank's business strategy.

Raif agreed to the board's request to leave the bank only after Granot starts his new position.

Strike averted
in oil sector

RACHEL NEIMAN

A STRIKE in the oil sector was averted yesterday after progress was reported in negotiations.

MK Amir Peretz, chairman of the Histadrut professional division, said last night an agreement was reached between Sonol's management and workers. In addition, talks at Delek were progressing.

Although Peretz said he was satisfied with the progress, he expressed disappointment with Paz, where the 100 workers remaining on collective agreement have agreed to sign personal contracts.

Peretz said they may have been "tempted" by management.

Peretz also accused Paz management of using fear tactics to bully workers "so they could not longer withstand the pressure and stabbed the company's workers — and the other fuel company workers who had stood alongside them — in the back."

Last week Paz's workers met with Peretz and the Histadrut with a plea for help but yesterday "they disappeared as if the earth had swallowed them up," Peretz said.

He said the Haifa Workers Council will examine the legal aspects of a Paz document canceling all collective agreements with the workers committee.

Costs covered by new health tax
won't figure in calculation of inflation

JOSE ROSENFELD

HEALTH costs that will be covered by the new health tax in January will cease to be part of the consumer basket of goods and services used to calculate inflation, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

In order to avoid an artificial drop of roughly 4.2 percent in January's index from the elimination of health service payments to health funds from the consumer basket, the weight of this service will be distributed proportionately among the basket's remaining elements.

Although some members of the bureau's advisory committee recommended to include the health tax in the index, including National Insurance Institute representatives, the majority rejected the proposal, which would have caused a jump of about 1% in January's index.

Capital Holdings chief econo-

mist Jonathan Katz said that avoiding that jump is significant, since it could start off next year with a high index, deterring the Bank of Israel from cutting interest rates.

Treasury economic adviser Tsipi Gal-Yam, a member of the bureau's advisory committee, called the decision "fair and correct," noting that it was neutral, since it did not involve the bureau in figuring which costs consumers cover and which the government pays.

Under CBS rules, direct taxes such as NII payments or income tax payments are not included in the consumer basket, since there is no one-to-one correspondence between the actual tax paid and service received.

As a result, the bureau's next consumer basket price survey in 1997 will eliminate health services covered by the new tax.

By contrast, the CPI will continue measuring the price of services that are not covered by the new tax, including payments to private physicians, dental care, and out-of-pocket expenses for medication and medical equipment.

According to an official, the decision will reduce the pressure on the Treasury to reduce employees' health tax payments as a means to lower their inflationary impact, giving the ministry the option to cut 2% off the employees' portion of the health tax (*mas makbil*), which now stands at 4.95%.

Gal-Yam said that whatever solution to lower labor costs is adopted next year, the individual's tax burden will not increase.

MKs approve tax on
imported ice cream

EVELYN GORDON

IMPORTED ice cream will now be taxed, the Knesset Finance Committee decided yesterday.

The tax was requested by the Industry and Trade Ministry, which charged that European ice creams, in particular, do not compete fairly with Israeli brands because they are made with subsidized milk products, while Israeli companies must pay the real cost of their ingredients.

This makes Israeli brands more expensive.

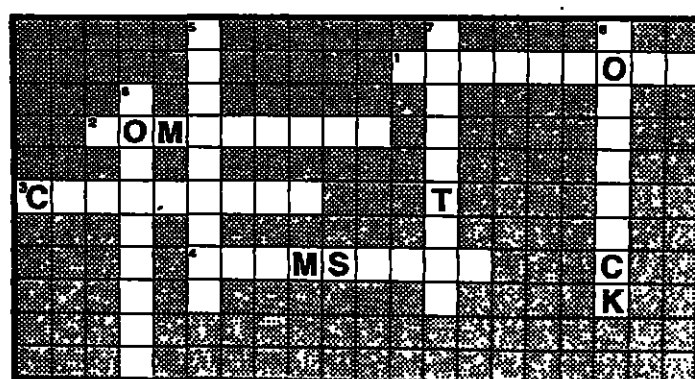
The tax will be imposed on all imports, and not just those from the European Community.

However, the tax on each item will be calculated as the difference between what the producer paid for the ingredients he used and what those ingredients would have cost in Israel.

Thus, a country which does not subsidize its dairy products would pay less tax than one that does.

The only no vote in the committee came from Ariel Weinstein (Likud), who said he did not think the tax would stand up if challenged in the High Court of Justice.

Last year — the first year imported ice cream was permitted — imports totaled some \$600,000, the ministry said. This year, the total is expected to double, to \$1.2 million.



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Motorola-Israel will sell
cellular phones to Cellcom

JUDY SIEGEL

MOTOROLA-ISRAEL will sell tens of thousands of advanced cellular phones to its new competitor, Cellcom, which will sell them in its chain of stores.

Motorola, which together with Bezek runs the Telephone network of cellular phones, signed the agreement yesterday.

The telephones, manufactured by Motorola and bearing its name, work by the digital TDMA technology, rather than the analog technology by which Telephone operates.

"Cellcom and Motorola-Israel

continue the tradition of cooperation between BellSouth [a member of the Cellcom consortium] and Motorola International in the purchase of peripheral equipment," said Oren Must, Cellcom's deputy marketing manager.

Cellcom will open four stores, in Herzliya, Canyon Ayalon (Ramat Gan), Canyon Hazalav (Rishon LeZion) and Dizengoff Center (Tel Aviv).

Gil Rappaport, marketing manager of Motorola-Israel, noted that the international company was the largest seller of cellular phones in the world.

In Israel, its cellular phones will be sold to Cellcom subscribers, but Motorola itself will not sell TDMA phones directly to customers.

PRIME
Mutual Fund for
Foreign Residents

Date: 22.12.94

Purchase Price: 96.41

Redemption Price: 94.97

leumi pia לוי

TARGET
Mutual Fund for
Foreign Residents

Date: 22.12.94

Purchase Price: 133.10

Redemption Price: 130.99

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (23.12.94)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.500	6.000	6.750
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.750	5.375	6.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.375	4.500	4.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.250	3.375
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.12.94)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.350	3.370	3.11	3.370
U.S. dollar	3.0238	3.0665	2.97	3.0500
German mark	1.9181	1.9451	1.88	1.9350
French franc	4.6780	4.7420	4.58	4.7191
Japanese yen (100)	0.5553	0.5632	0.54	0.5585
Swiss franc	3.0526	3.0634	2.97	3.0435
Dutch guilder	1.7181	1.7404	1.69	1.7287
Swedish krona	2.2732	2.3023	2.23	2.2918
Norwegian krone	0.4040	0.4097	0.40	0.4070
Denmark krone	0.4401	0.4464	0.43	0.4385
Finland mark	0.4839	0.4888	0.48	0.4834
Canadian dollar	0.6325	0.6416	0.62	0.6366
Australian dollar	2.1624	2.1892	2.12	2.1673
S. African rand	2.3549	2.3882	2.29	2.3780
Belgian franc (10)	0.8478	0.8598	0.74	0.8555
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9941	0.9973	0.98	0.9844
Italian lira (1000)	2.7781	2.7966	2.68	2.7485
Jordanian dinar	1.8438	1.8696	1.80	1.8589
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.86	0.8638
ECU	3.8521	3.7046	—	3.6830
Irish punt	4.9122	4.9772	4.50	4.8506
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2715	2.3038	2.21	2.2859

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

HAIFA

WELCOME HOME FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Jerusalem Post Welcome Home Fund will present 14 scholarships today, Monday, December 26 at 5 p.m., to residents of Haifa, at City Hall, 14 Rehov Hassan Shukri, in the presence of the Mayor.

Readers of The Post who would like to attend the presentation should phone Ofra, Hiya or Sigal at 04-356350/1 for details.

Ministry won't object to raising taxes on apartments bought by foreign residents

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Court: Delta not liable for demise of Pan Am

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Delta Air Lines Inc. won a major court battle over the weekend when a federal judge ruled it was not liable for Pan Am Corp.'s demise and said the bankrupt airline's estate must repay Delta for emergency financing.

US District Judge Robert Patterson ruled that Pan Am has 10 days to repay Delta a \$115 million loan plus interest. That means a total of about \$150m., a Delta lawyer said.

The ruling lifted a cloud of uncertainty that had been hovering over Delta and its stock leapt on the news, gaining \$3.875 to \$49.625 at the close on the New York Stock Exchange.

Pan Am filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January 1991. It stopped flying in December of that year after Delta unexpectedly pulled out of a financing agreement.

Pan Am and its creditors then sued Delta in bankruptcy court for \$2.5 billion in damages alleging Delta had agreed to finance a reorganization plan that would have allowed Pan Am to emerge from bankruptcy.

Precious metals market quiet

There was barely a trace of movement in precious metals on Friday, as the world markets settled in for the Christmas holiday weekend.

The Tokyo markets were closed all day for the emperor's birthday, and the London markets closed before New York opened, which resulted in this quiet tone on the COMEX.

February gold settled down \$0.60 at \$382.30 an ounce and March silver finished \$0.30 lower to close at \$4.807 an ounce.

Comex copper also experienced a bushed trading session, with March futures closing down 0.75 cents at 134.50 cents a pound. Players mostly sold out their positions ahead of the weekend.

News of China purchasing from the US dominated the floors of the CBOT on Friday and gave a boost to the corn, wheat and soybean markets.

China had purchased 1.45 million tonnes of corn from the US. Rumors of a further purchase pushed corn prices up 1-3/4 higher, with March closing at \$2.31-1/4.

Late technical buying, as well as an announcement of China's wheat purchase, boosted March wheat up five to close at \$4.04-3/4.

Soybeans also reacted favorably to the news that China was buying up to 40,000 tonnes of US soyoil. However gains were limited by almost perfect growing weather in South America. January futures closed up 3-3/4 at \$5.67-1/2.

Trade and speculative buying pushed NYCE cotton higher, with March up at 88.18 cents a pound. Thursday's US export sales report indicated that foreign buyers are increasingly turning to the US. Analysts said foreign supplies are rapidly being consumed, noting that the fundamental picture is very bullish.

Commission house and trade buying boosted March sugar futures, which ended up 0.06 cents at 15.02 cents a pound in a shorter than usual trading session.

CSCE March Arabica coffee futures gained 0.70 cents to close at 172.45 cents a pound in an abbreviated and subdued trading session. Floor sources said that speculators were booksquaring ahead of the long weekend.

Trading on the CSCE cocoa pits was thin, with light speculation buying and trading selling, traders said. March cocoa futures ended up \$2 to close at \$1,322 a tonne.

All markets are closed today in observance of the Christmas holiday and will re-open tomorrow. Courtesy of Michael Zwebnier, Comstock Trading Ltd.

THE Finance Ministry announced it will not object to raising taxes on apartments purchased by foreign residents following an agreement reached with MK Gideon Saguy (Labor).

Saguy, who serves as chairman of the economic growth non-profit organization, has proposed increasing the betterment tax on foreign residents purchasing apartments in the center of the country.

According to Saguy, similar laws exist in other countries, including Switzerland. Saguy plans to present a draft proposal on the tax in January.

The Finance Ministry has yet to decide on the change in the tax rate. Saguy previously proposed to legislate a law banning foreign residents from purchasing apartments in the center of the country.

But, the ministry objected to the proposal because of its policy to encourage foreign investments.

According to Saguy, foreign residents' purchase of housing units, mainly in expensive areas, has significantly pushed up prices and encouraged contractors to build luxury apartments.

Saguy said foreign residents buy real estate in Israel mainly for investment purposes.

In a related news, Maldan, the association of real estate agents, reported foreign residents demand for luxury housing in Israel has increased during the last few months - reflecting the increased interest in the market in Mexico, Belgium and South African Jews. Simon Einstein, a member of Maldan's management board, said Mexican Jews' purchase of luxury real estate is a new trend.

Last week, a Jewish couple from Mexico purchased the 200th apartment available in the Hof Hacarmel tower in Haifa. The couple purchased a five-room apartment on the 15th floor for more than \$500,000.

Hai Meidan has started construction of a new housing development in Shikmon. The development will be situated on a slope, on land leased from the Israel Land Development Authority.

The company plans to construct 36 housing units, including three and four room apartments, situated in two apartment buildings. The company is offering for sale 82 sq.m. apartments at a starting price of \$92,000.

Hai Meidan expects total sales from the development to reach \$3.5m. Occupancy is scheduled for November.

Contractor Elmad Yitzhak has started construction of 24 apartments in Ramat Hasharon.

The contractor plans to build two, four-story buildings - including garden apartments, three and four room apartments and penthouses.

The price of a three-room, 120 sq.m. garden apartment, in addition to a 70 sq.m. garden, is about \$295,000, while a four-room, 134 sq.m. garden apartment is available for about \$370,000.

The contractor plans to sell a three-room, 95 sq.m. apartment for about \$240,000, and a four-room, 115 sq.m. unit for \$310,000.

Kahem Construction has started construction of Pisgat Rothschild, a luxury apartment building situated in the heart of Tel Aviv's business and entertainment district.

The 5,000 sq.m. building is situated on a private plot in Sderot Rothschild.

The complex will include 22 apartments, with two apartments on each story. The development includes garden apartments, roof

apartments two storey and three storey apartments.

Some 24,000 apartments were sold through real estate agents this year, representing about 20 percent of total apartment sales, according to Maldan, the association of real estate agents.

Maldan said most of the transactions were in the center of the country.

Angel plans to construct 102 housing units in Kfar Sava in the framework of a senior citizens home development.

The company plans to invest NIS 12.6m., including VAT, in the development. Construction is scheduled to start at the beginning of 1995 and continue for 17 months.

Azurel Chen, the new northern area of Tel Aviv, is considered the most expensive rental area in the city, according to the area's management committee.

A four-room, 145 sq.m. apartment can be rented for about \$1,600 per month, compared with

\$1,200 sq.m. in Ramat Aviv Gimmel and \$1,500 in David Towers.

A five-room, 155 sq.m. apartment is rented for \$2,000 per month in Azorei Chen, compared with \$1,500 in Ramat Aviv Gimmel and \$1,800 in David Towers.

Industrial Buildings has let 938 sq.m. of industrial space in the Lev Tashiya development in Or Yehuda.

Tana Industries, a water dispensers company owned by Kibbutz Netiv Halamed Hei, signed a five-year agreement to rent the space for \$11.30 per square meter.

SuperPharm has opened its 38th branch, at London Ministry in Tel Aviv. The shop is situated on 485 sq.m.

Avraham Katz has been appointed chairman of the Land Appraisers Association last week.

Katz, 47 from Tel Aviv will take over from Ehud Ha'ameri, who served as chairman of the association for the last four years.

Former Banesto head remanded in custody

MADRID (Reuters) - Former Banesto chairman Mario Conde, Spain's most famous businessman and one of its most powerful, was remanded in custody over the weekend on criminal charges arising from the collapse of the bank a year ago.

Court officials said investigating judge Manuel Garcia Castellon ordered his unconditional remand after 37 hours of questioning spread over five days at the Madrid high court.

Conde has been consistently voted Spain's most admired business figure, was a firm friend of King Juan Carlos and a thorn in the side of Spain's Socialist government. He had been considering a political career.

Spain's prosecutor-general filed charges against Conde and 12 other former Banco Espanol de Credit (Banesto) executives in November. Conde's right-hand man, former deputy Banesto chairman Arturo Romani, was ordered held in jail last Friday by Judge Garcia Castellon.

Banesto, Spain fourth largest bank by as-

sets, collapsed last December 28 with a deficit of 605 billion pesetas (\$4.65 billion).

Its management was initially taken over by the Bank of Spain and, after a massive rescue operation, Banco Santander won a controlling share in competition with other banks.

Tension was high this week as Spain waited to discover whether the suave 46-year-old Conde would be imprisoned. His appearances at the high court dominated news bulletins and dozens of journalists and curious onlookers blocked pavements outside the building day after day.

Court sources said that, despite last minute efforts by his lawyers to secure bail, the ex-banker was being transferred to Alcala-Meco prison just outside Madrid.

Conde's fall from grace has disillusioned many admirers in Spain and abroad.

He incisively criticized the Socialist government's economic policies and offered an alternative political voice in a country emerging from dictatorship on the crest of a financial

boom.

The charges filed against him left no room for doubt that prosecutors believe irregularities were being perpetrated on a massive scale at Banesto.

The prosecution has focused its investigations on a series of transactions involving Banesto subsidiaries, in which intermediary companies controlled by Conde and Romani are suspected to have made large profits at Banesto's expense.

A report recently compiled by a parliamentary committee investigating the Banesto collapse accused them of concealing the true state of the bank from shareholders and identifies 13 operations in which there were suspected irregular dealings.

Conde is the second internationally prominent private businessman to fall foul of Spanish justice in recent months. Javier de la Rosa, former Kuwait Investment Office agent in Spain, has spent the last two months in a Barcelona jail facing trial on fraud charges.

Devaluation leaves investors in US wary of Latin America

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Many US investors are feeling battered, betrayed and more than a little uneasy about their holdings in Latin America following Mexico's decision to devalue its currency.

Although other Latin American countries are unlikely to devalue their currencies, Mexico's handling of the move has created a crisis of confidence among investors, analysts said.

"It just casts a bad feeling over the whole region," said Lazard Freres' emerging markets research head, Brian Barish. "When you have a devaluation, it's very psychologically damaging."

Mexico repeatedly promised foreign investors as recently as last week that it would not devalue its currency. It broke that promise with a 15 percent devaluation on Tuesday.

Now foreign investors are eyeing other Latin American countries such as Argentina, which also has an overvalued currency, with a new sense of caution, analysts said.

Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said Argentina was not planning to copy Mexico's devaluation. The Argentine

peso is tied to the dollar under the so-called convertibility plan that is part of Argentine law.

However, Wall Street analysts said they believe the negative impact on most Latin American markets will be short-lived as investors turn their closer attention to each country's individual situation.

The Mexican stock market was pounded after the government's decision on the peso, but it largely recovered by the end of the week. On Friday, the market took a roller coaster ride, rising sharply and then falling. Argentine and Brazilian shares also were hurt by the Mexican move.

Most of the recovery in the Mexican market was attributed to the fact that stocks in pesos are now far cheaper for other holders than they were previously.

Once the dust settles, analysts caution, the market is unlikely to hold on to the gains, at least short term.

The Mexican market is unlikely to completely unravel, however, given its trade ties to the US and Canada and its burgeoning economy providing support to Mexican corporate earnings, said Salomon Bros. analyst Juan-Carlos Garcia.

Shares fall on small turnover

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



THE last week of trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Market this year started on the wrong foot yesterday, with price declines and negligible turnovers.

The Two-Sided Index declined 0.9 percent and the Maof 1%. However, the Karam - as usual running against the trend - rose 0.6%.

Turnover was a paltry NIS 90.7 million, to which the Two-Sided market contributed NIS 54.5m.

The Karam was relatively active, with a turnover of NIS 35m. The turnover on the afternoon Two-Sided session was meager, at slightly less than NIS 30m. - in other words, less than the Karam market.

Observers expected the Bank of Israel's announcement that interest rates would not be raised during January to reinforce investors' optimism.

There were also reports that the December and, particularly, the January indexes would be on the low side, at least 1%.

All this failed to instill optimism in the hearts and minds of the investors, and the market closed the way it did.

There were 11 securities listed on the Two-Sided market which were not traded at all during the afternoon session.

The list contained some surprises - Urdan, T-Bone Veal, Tebahot, Mishor Hahof (it did rise 5.2%, but that was during the morning trade) Mishkan, Mashov and Perlicase.

The lack of activity on Mishor Hahof was surprising, considering it was the object of a relatively unflattering article describing

alleged financial difficulties experienced by the Central Bus Station, its main asset, in obtaining bank finance.

There were also some 20 securities which were the object of one or two trades only, so that one-third of the Two-Sided market was for all intents and purposes quite dormant.

There was some activity generated by the fact that Tadiran shares are going to be listed as next Tuesday on the Two-Sided Index and be included on the Maof Index.

Considering its expected weight in the index, this was understood as announcing that Maof mutual funds would in all likelihood sell securities to make place for Tadiran's shares.

Some investors felt the need to preempt the sales by the mutual funds by selling themselves ahead of the funds.

The Maof mutual funds must indeed keep an asset structure as similar as possible to the Maof Index.

Note that the Maof will include, as of next Sunday, Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi. This, it is hoped, will make Maof arbitrage more difficult.

There was not much activity beside that on the market. The great question is to what extent the big boys on the market will attempt to add some end of year cheer by pushing prices up before the year's end.

It is expected that at the beginning of the new year turnovers will be quite small, as investors attempt to learn the effect of the new tax.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks	Price	%	Volume	Change
BankLeumi	175.06	-0.87	1200	54.5
BankHapoalim	176.44	-1.00	1000	54.5
BankLeumi	158.21	+0.59	1000	54.5
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Court overrules rabbinate on kosher meat imports

THE High Court of Justice overruled the Chief Rabbinate yesterday, determining that it cannot deny a kashrut certificate to someone who imports kosher meat, just because he also imports non-kosher meat.

The court was ruling on a petition by Meatreal Ltd. A law passed earlier this year which banned the import of non-kosher frozen meat severely cut into the company's business. It therefore applied for an Industry and Trade Ministry tender to import kosher meat, but was rejected because the rabbinate would not approve.

The rabbinate argued that as an importer of non-kosher meat, Meatreal could not be trusted to ensure the kashrut of this particular batch.

However, Justices Theodor Orr, Eliahu Mazza and Dalia Dorner noted that the company will be purchasing its meat from a slaughterhouse in Uruguay.

EVELYN GORDON

which is under the supervision of the rabbinate. The meat will be packaged and sealed at this factory, so that it cannot come into contact with any other food en route to Israel, and the rabbinate can check whether the seal has been broken when the meat arrives.

"The refusal to grant a kashrut certificate in a case like this is an attempt to force the importer into a certain mode of behavior in his other businesses," i.e. to force him to stop importing non-kosher meat, the justices wrote.

Furthermore, they said, there is no danger that letting Meatreal import kosher meat might mislead the public into thinking other Meatreal products are kosher, because all imported meat is labeled kosher or non-kosher.

Herb Keiron adds: In response to the decision,

Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau said: "Every child knows that kashrut depends on the trustworthiness of the butcher or importer, and if there is no trust in a particular butcher or importer, nothing will help."

He added that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has promised him that an amendment to the law prohibiting the import of non-kosher frozen meat will be legislated by the end of the year, effectively rendering the Meatreal decision moot.

Lau said, however, that the decision itself is another example of the High Court of Justice ruling on matters that up until now have been within the exclusive purview of the rabbinate.

National Religious Party MK Yigal Bibi termed the decision "very grave," and said it reinforced his opinion that the authority of the court needs to be defined and curtailed.

Police promise license suspensions, trials for drunk drivers on New Year's Eve

NEW YEAR'S EVE partygoers who drink and drive should be prepared to face an immediate 30-day driver's license suspension and a subsequent trial, the National Traffic Police announced yesterday.

Starting Friday night and continuing through early Sunday, large numbers of police, military police, and Civil Guard volunteers will be out in full force on intercity and urban roads checking vehicles and drivers.

"We will place the emphasis on young drivers and soldiers on leave," Dep. Cmdr. Danny Liron

RAINE MARCUS

said, adding that 1 percent of accidents involve drunken drivers.

According to Liron, Israeli drinking habits have changed. Once, a group of friends would meet for coffee, while now a glass of wine is more acceptable than it was.

Immigrants from the CIS have brought with them different drinking norms, he added.

Drivers suspected of having had too much to drink will be asked to blow into a Breathalyzer, which shows if the blood alco-

hol level is over the legal limit. More than two cans of beer, or two glasses of wine or spirits can make a driver legally under the influence of alcohol.

"Drivers do not realize when they have drunk too much, and we will do everything within our power this year to prevent drunk driving," said Liron. "The combination of tiredness and alcohol may also be fatal."

The main concentration of police will be in areas with high concentrations of pubs, nightclubs and other entertainment spots.

Posters seek help with Baruch Goldstein memorial book

HANDBILLS calling on people with pictures and reminiscences of Baruch Goldstein to contribute them to a memorial book to be published in his honor were posted in Kiryat Arba over the weekend.

Goldstein killed 29 Moslem worshippers in the Machpela Cave in Hebron in February, before being killed himself.

"Anyone who has pictures, poems, or writings about the martyr is requested to send us a copy," the poster read. "The holy com-

HERB KEIRON

munity that understands the importance of this matter is requested to help."

The poster listed a Jerusalem phone number for further details, but it proved to be a wrong number.

In addition to writings and pictures about Goldstein, the poster said that essays on redemption, the Temple, Sabbedrin, revenge, war, and monarchy are also wanted for inclusion in the book.

One Kiryat Arba resident said about 10 people in the community are trying to develop a cult around Goldstein.

"They go to his grave and recite Psalms, they gather in each other's homes and tell stories about Goldstein," the resident said. "They are trying to put together a cult, and this book seems to be a part of it. The number of people involved is minuscule, but the damage they can do to the image of settlers and Kiryat Arba is enormous."



Some of the 10,000 sabras born to immigrants from Ethiopia are welcomed at yesterday's Operation Moses ceremony by Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban. (Yossi Cohen/Scoop 80)

Operation Moses marks 10 years

BATSHEVA TSUR

IT IS high time that the Chief Rabbinate recognize Ethiopian immigrants as Jews in every respect. Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said yesterday at a ceremony at Beit Hanassi to mark the 10th anniversary of Operation Moses.

"Find the courage to do this. There is no other community as proud of their Jewishness as the Jews of Ethiopia," Tzaban said in a call on the rabbis, reiterating how the community had wandered through the tortuous deserts to Sudan in its yearning to reach Jerusalem.

Since Operation Moses, another 10,000 sabras have been born to parents who came from Ethiopia, he said.

President Ezer Weizman recalled the pride he felt when IAF planes were used "to save people rather than for bombing purposes," during the operation.

Some 7,600 olim were flown here on dozens of night flights from Sudan over a 45-day period.

"The Ethiopian aliya is the symbol of what Jews can do for each other," Weizman said, saluting many of those in the audience who had worked clandestinely and openly to bring the community - emissaries of the Jewish Agency, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the security forces, and IDF.

Friendly governments also assisted in various ways to carry out the operation, including the Americans, who brought 600 Jews from the refugee camps of Sudan in cargo planes.

Weizman stressed the difficulties the olim had in being absorbed, but noted with satisfaction that they could now be found

in all walks of life here.

Two of the olim recalled their tribulations in their long trek from home. The guides stole their money, food, and medicines; they were wracked with disease and famine and longing for family members from whom they had been separated.

"Those of us who did not die en route to Sudan, began dying like flies at the refugee camps in Sudan," recalled one of the speakers. "On one day, we buried 18 dead. That night another two died. I felt I was next. Today I am well-covered, but when the plane came to fetch us in Sudan, I was skin and bones. Thanks to all of you who saved us."

Kes Hadane, the spiritual leader of the community, recited Yizkor in Hebrew and Amharic in memory of the 4,000 members of the community who lost their lives on the way to Israel.

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Housing official is hostile witness at Deri trial

AVRAHAM Hecht, the director of the Moresheet Binyamin housing association accused of bribing former interior minister Aryeh Deri, was declared a hostile witness at yesterday's session of Deri's trial in Jerusalem District Court.

This gives the prosecution more latitude in questioning, enabling the prosecutor to ask the type of question usually reserved for cross-examination.

During the session, contradictions were exposed between the statements he made to police and his court testimony, regarding six plots Moresheet Binyamin had promised to give to the Lev Banim yeshiva.

For example, Hecht told the court that until he had been questioned by police, he had never seen a document that included a commitment to allot six plots to Lev Banim. But he told the police that he "had not agreed to sign it."

Hecht denied having made such a statement to police. According to the police, Hecht said he had agreed to the request of Moshe Weinberg, a co-defendant of Deri's, to give six free plots to the yeshiva.

Hecht explained he had acquiesced to Weinberg's request, hoping that Weinberg and his father, Aryeh Weinberg, who headed Lev Banim, would prevent association members who were demanding their money back from suing Moresheet Binyamin. (Tim)

The Association of Professors for a Strong Israel.

International Conference on
"Securing the Future of Israel"

Moriah Hotel, Jerusalem, Wednesday-Thursday, December 28-29, 1994

The lectures will be mainly in English on Wednesday and mainly in Hebrew on Thursday, with simultaneous translation into English

Program:

Wednesday, December 28, 1994 15:00-15:30 - Registration

15:30-17:00 - Session 1: Chairmen: Prof. Menachem Lewin and Prof. Esther Liberman (USA).

Opening remarks: Prof. Ariel Cohen, Prof. Assa Lifshitz

Lecturers: Prof. Moshe Sharon, Dr. S. Bodanski (U.S.A.), Prof. Liva Bitton-Jackson (U.S.A.)

Discussion

17:00-17:30 - Coffee break

17:30-19:30 - Session 2: Chairmen: Prof. Zvi Ophir and Rabbi Herzl Krantz (U.S.A.)

Lecturers: Prof. Howard L. Adelson (U.S.A.), Dr. H. Gvirtzman, Ms. Beth Gilinski (U.S.A.)

Discussion

20:00 Dinner at the Siebenberg Family Museum in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. Lectures by Dr. G. Barkai and Ms. Gail Winston.

Reception at the home of Prof. Hefzibah and Prof. Zvi Eyal.

Thursday, December 29 08:00-09:00 - Registration

09:00-09:30 - Opening Session.

Lecturers: Dr. Manfred Lehman, First Chairman of the Association in the U.S.A. and Guest of Honor, and Prof. Ariel Cohen, Chairman of the conference.

9:30-11:15 - Session 1: Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem

Chairman: Prof. Haim Levanon

Lecturers: M.K. Binyamin Netanyahu, Prof. Rafi Israeli, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Aharon Levan. Discussion moderator: Prof. Howard L. Adelson (U.S.A.)

11:15-11:45 - Coffee break

11:45-13:30 - Session 2: "Peace" and Economy Chairman: Dr. Ron Breiman.

Opening remarks: M.K. Yigal Bibi.

Lecturers: Prof. Eliyahu Kanovsky, Dr. Martin Sherman, Mr. Yigael Carmon

Discussion moderator: Prof. David Rosen

13:30 - Lunch at the Moriah Hotel.

Chairmen: Prof. Arie Zaritzki and Mr. Jack Fridler. Greetings: Mr. C. Stein. Lecturer: M.K. Dr. Uzi Landau. Greetings by guests: Mr. George Diab, Representative of the Maronite League in Israel, and Mr. Sharbel Barakat, Mid. Eastern Director of the World Lebanese Organization.

15:30-17:15 Session 3: Education Chairman: Prof. Zvi Eyal

Lecturers: Prof. E. Schweid, Prof. Ozer Schild, Mr. Zvi Tsameret

Discussion Moderator: Prof. Emil Fackenheim

17:15-17:45 - Coffee break

17:45-19:00 Session 4: The Golan Chairman: Dr. Yitzhak Klein. Opening remarks: M.K. Rafael Eitan

Lecturers: Mr. Yosef Ben-Aharon, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Y. Peled, Prof. Dore Gold. Discussion moderator: Prof. Alexander Burkot

Concluding remarks: Prof. Israel Hanukogiu and Prof. Eli Pollak

20:30: Reception at the home of Mrs. and Dr. David Medved, 18 Marcus St.

For further details, call 02-257121 (Esther), during regular office hours; 02-276094, during the day; or fax. 02-435014, 257123.